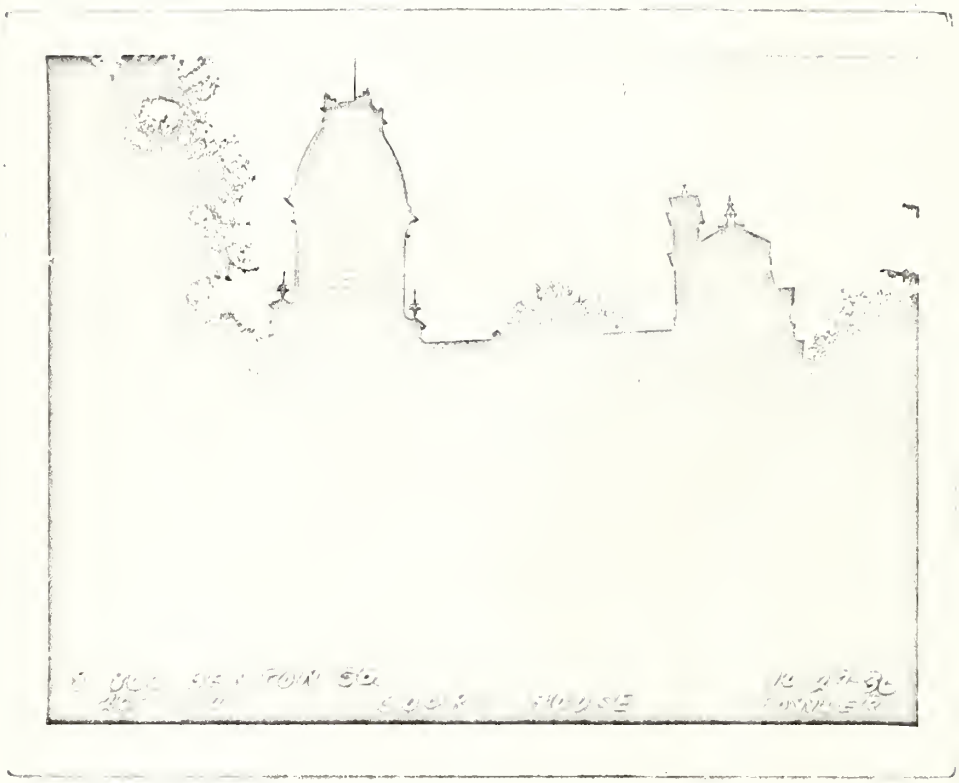
BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Fowler, Ind.



(In the final publication an enlarged picture, 5 x 7, will appear here.)

AN INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES OF INDIANA

Prepared by

Historical Records Survey
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
Works Progress Administration

NO. 4. BENTON COUNTY

W. P. A

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Indianapolis, Indiana

Historical Records Survey

April 1937

PREFACE

This inventory of Benton County records constitutes a part of the general guide to the county archives of Indiana. It was prepared for the primary purpose of furnishing officials, students of history, and the citizens of the community with a convenient tool for their use in consulting the county records. It is hoped the information contained in these volumes will encourage county officials as well as the general public to take a greater interest in continued improvement of methods for preservation of public records. It is also hoped the information herein presented concerning the records, their present housing and care, and accommodations available for users, will prove to have value for the citizens and public officials.

This inventory of records was made during the period of May 15 to June 15, 1936, under supervision of Samuel J. Kagan, State Director; James L. Taylor, District Supervisor; and John Gourley, Research Editor. The field workers were Lawrence Sutton and Charles Kerr of Attica and Clifford Erwin of Lafayette. Indispensable cooperation was received from all officials of the county and from the Works Progress Administration officials to make this survey successful.

It is our intention to present a complete, concise picture of the records in bibliographical form. This inventory is preceded by a number of introductory sections to enlighten the reader concerning facts forming the background and basis for the records. The entries of the inventory are carried in consecutive numbering for the county, while the bureaus are arranged in groups of governing boards; judicial agencies; major

administrative offices; financial agencies; and educational, health, engineering, and miscellaneous departments. Where it is applicable, natural groupings under subject headings are made within the bureau, and the entries are arranged according to their functional sequence. A cross reference index following the inventory will help the reader locate records with the least effort.

Acknowledgment should go to the State office force of the Survey for checking, condensing, and compiling the Benton County Survey.

LUTHER H. EVANS, National Supervisor

S. J. KAGAN, State Director

Historical Records Survey

FOREWORD

A guide to county and township records in Indiana has long been needed by both local officials and the general public. The Works Progress Administration project of the Historical Records Survey is the first attempt to supply this need. Few more useful fields of employment could have been found than the survey of local and State historical records, even though the work inevitably presented unusual difficulties. The completion of the survey of historical records in Indiana is a source of genuine satisfaction.

We are indebted first of all to the Works Progress Administration for providing for the survey and financing it. The National Director of the project, Dr. Luther H. Evans, assured a fruitful product of the work by ably outlining it and drafting the forms to be used by the field workers so as to insure the greatest completeness with the least likelihood of errors. He and his assistants have done all that was possible for this nation-wide survey. Samuel J. Kagan, State Director of Indiana, deserves great credit for his energy and ability in organizing the office and field forces which have carried out the project. To assemble and organize more than one hundred and fifty persons in a new line of work in which there were very few local precedents, and to complete a survey of the county records in all the ninety-two counties, including the townships, at first, seemed almost impossible of accomplishment within a year. It has, however, been accomplished.

LS

An advisory committee has helped guide work upon the project; though no meetings were held, it members in many instances were a great help. A word of appreciation must be recorded here for the county officers who courteously gave the representatives of the survey access to the records in their offices and cooperated in the making of the survey. Especially is the State indebted to those officers who made possible the photographing of old records for preservation in a central depository.

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN
Director, Indiana Historical Bureau
and
Chairman, Advisory Committee
Historical Records Survey

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A. Benton County and its Records System

Part B. County Offices and Their Records

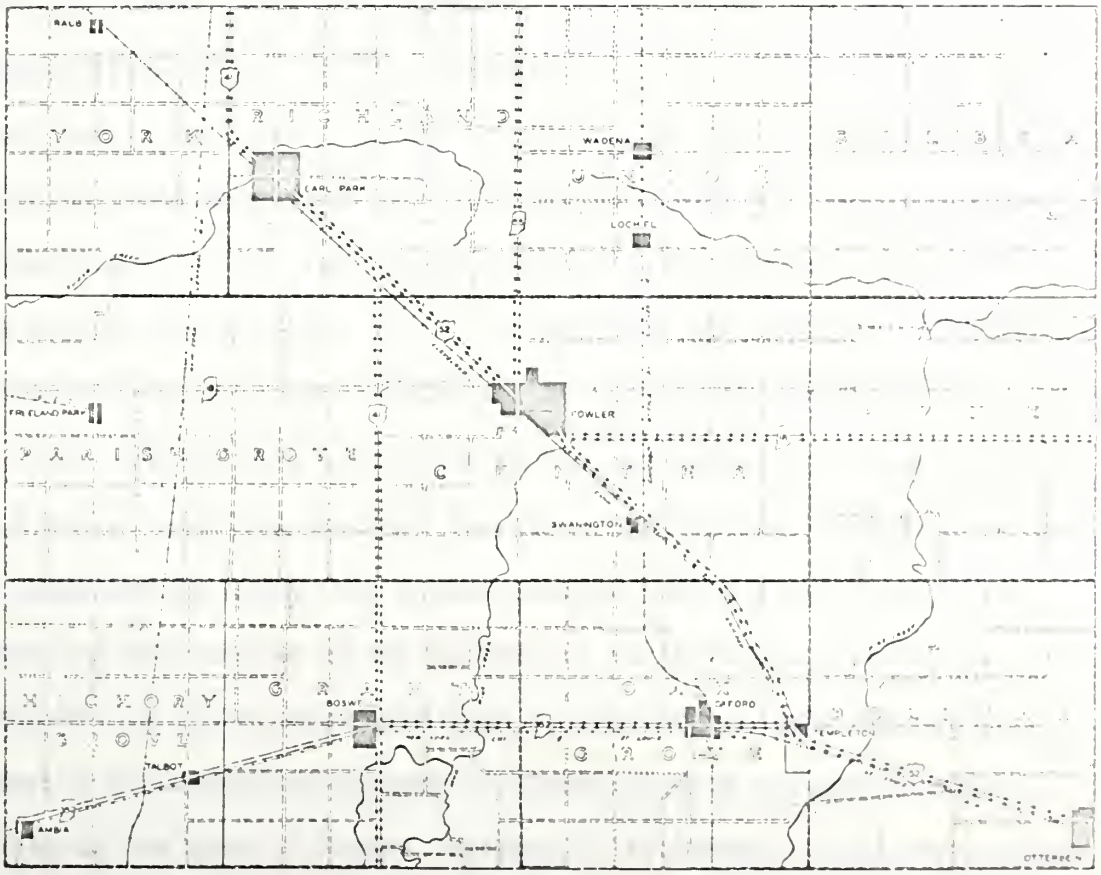
GENERAL PLAN

BENTON COUNTY

STATE PLANNING BOARD OF INDIANA 1936

LEGEND

- STATE AND U.S. HIGHWAYS
- PROPOSED HIGHWAYS
- IMPROVED ROAD
- DIRT ROADS
- TOWNS



HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY

1840-1936

Benton County, situated in the extreme western tier of counties in the State, is bounded on the north by Newton and Jasper Counties, on the east by White and Tippecanoe Counties, on the south by Warren County, and on the west by the State of Illinois. It has an area of 408 square miles.

The topography of Benton County consists of a broad expanse of gently rolling prairie occasionally dotted by small groves, with three well defined ridges running east and west and breaking an otherwise uniform landscape. This area is known as the "Grand Prairie", and the county contains more fertile land than any other in the State. Big Pine Creek, the largest stream in the county, flows generally from north to south and, with its tributaries, drains the eastern part of the county. Mud Pine Creek, flowing in the same direction, drains the central and southern areas. Sugar Creek and Mud Creek flow through the northwestern section and meet just east of the western county line.

The relationship of Indiana to the history of the United States as a whole should be sketched briefly. The English landed and settled at Jamestown in 1607. The French founded Quebec a year later and began the exploration of the wilderness to the west. The French explorer, La Salle, descended what is now known as the Mississippi River to its mouth and on April 9, 1682, claimed the entire river valley in the name of France, calling it Louisiana. This, of course,

included the present State of Indiana. By 1719, French trading posts had been established on the present sites of Fort Wayne and Vincennes. Rivalry between the French and the English for the possession of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys led to the French and Indian War ending in the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763, by which Louisiana was ceded to Great Britain. During the Revolutionary War, George Rogers Clark of Virginia defeated the British in the west, and in December 1778 Virginia extended jurisdiction over the region north and west of the Ohio River, naming it Illinois County. In 1784 Virginia ceded this territory to the United States. Three years later federal provision was made for its government, and the name was changed to the Northwest Territory. From this territory Indiana was organized in December 16, 1816.

The area now comprising Benton County was occupied and claimed by the Indian tribes making up the Miami Confederacy--the Twightwees, Weas, Piankashaws, and Shockeys--until about 1765, when they were driven out by the Potawatomis. The Prairie Potawatomis, or Mascoutens, claimed most of Indiana north and west of the Wabash River. In Benton County, where the Indians were divided into twenty-three clans or families, they lived in the localities--wooded spots set in the midst of the prairie, generally making up the county's surface--known accordingly as Parish, Turkey Foot, and White Oak Groves. In addition to the Potawatomis, the Kickapoos lived in the county for a number of years. In 1791, there was a Kickapoo village two and a half miles south of the present site of Oxford; this village was occupied by the

Potawatomis in 1832 and vacated in 1838. Another Kickapoo village was located at the junction of East Fork with the main stream of Big Pine Creek. The large number of arrowheads, stone axes, and other relics found on the Hugh M. Scott farm, five miles northeast of Oxford, indicate that an Indian village of considerable size was located here and abandoned long before the county was settled by the white man. The much-traveled Potawatomi trail, later called the Chicago road, running from Ouiatenon, a trading post near Lafayette, to Fort Dearborn (present Chicago), ran through Benton County and united all the Indian villages along its route.

In a series of treaties beginning with the Treaty of St. Mary's, October 2-6, 1818, and ending with the Treaty of Tippecanoe, October 27, 1832, the Potawatomis and other Indian tribes sold all their lands in Indiana to the United States Government.

The first white settlements within the boundaries of Benton County were made along the banks of Big Pine and Mud Pine Creeks, near the southern county line, and in Sugar, Parish, and White Oak Groves. At that time the Grand Prairie was avoided, as it was considered unsafe for settlement. The first settlers were Thomas and Bassett Timmons, who lived for a short time on the banks of the east fork of Big Pine Creek in what is now Pine Township. Shortly afterward Bassett Timmons moved into Warren County, but in the fall of 1829, Thomas built a log cabin just east of what is now known as Timmon's cemetery. Late in 1829 or 1830 William Smith, Sr., came to Benton County and located on Mud Pine Creek near Smith's Cemetery. The next year John Byard, Sr.,

and Thomas Martin, after living for a few years in Fountain County, came to Benton and settled on Mud Pine Creek. In 1832, Thomas Lewis, a native of South Carolina, moved into the county after living for a short time in Ohio, and located in White Oak Grove. Matthew Torwilleger entered land in November 1832, but the date of his actual settlement in the county is unknown. Henry Jennings, of Ohio, entered land about the same time, and built the first cabin in Benton County, along the Potawatomi Trail just east of the present village of Templeton.

The residents of the southern townships of Jasper County--the area now comprising Benton County--had taken a leading part in the movement to organize Jasper County in 1838. When its seat of government was established a day's journey to the north, great dissatisfaction was expressed by the five hundred residents of the southern townships. Henry Robertson, acting as spokesman for this group, proposed to the commissioners that a new county be carved out of the southern section of Jasper County. A petition to this effect was presented to the State legislature, and on February 18, 1840, a new county was created. The county was named in honor of Thomas Hart Benton, a United States Senator from Missouri.

The boundaries of the newly formed county were legally defined as follows: "All that part of Jasper County south of the line between township twenty-six (26) and twenty-seven (27) north." (Laws of Indiana, 1839-40 (General), p. 62).

Governor Wallace appointed Henry Robertson sheriff, with authority to hold the first election and to organize the county government.

This election was held on July 28, 1840, at the home of Basil Justus, in Oak Grove Township. Matthew Terwilleger and David McConnell were chosen associate judges; Basil Justus was named clerk and recorder; and John Robertson, Thomas Lewis, and Amos White, Sr., were elected commissioners.

The board of commissioners held their first session on July 28, 1840, at the home of Basil Justus in Oak Grove. They divided the county into commissioners' districts and appointed road supervisors. John Robertson was appointed assessor. The county was also divided into three townships: Parish Grove, Pine, and Oak Grove. At the present time there are eleven townships in Benton County: Bolivar, Center, Gilboa, Grant, Hickory Grove, Richland, Union, York, and the three mentioned above.

The first term of the Benton Circuit Court was held on November 4, 1840, at the home of Basil Justus on the old Chicago Road. The presiding judge of the circuit was Isaac Naylor.

The general assembly, under constant pressure from the citizens of Benton County, finally passed an act on January 31, 1843, providing for the appointment of locating commissioners to select a county seat. On May 17, 1843, the commissioners selected Oak Grove, the present site of the town of Oxford, for the seat of justice. The name first selected for the county seat was Milroy, but on learning that another town in the State bore that name, it was changed to Oxford. In February 1875, the county seat was moved to Fowler, where it has remained.

The first courthouse in Benton County stood in Oxford on the site

of the present Masonic block. Its construction was ordered by the commissioners in December 1843, but the building was not completed until June 1845. The second courthouse was a two-story, brick structure, 50 x 80 feet in size, and situated on the public square. It was ready for occupancy in 1856. The third and present courthouse is located in Fowler. The contract for this building was let in June 1874, and the total cost was in excess of $62,000.

During the last few decades the state of agriculture--there is almost no industry--in Benton County has exhibited certain trends typical of predominantly rural areas. The population of the county has been steadily decreasing since 1900. There has also been a slight decrease in the population of the small towns throughout the county: Otterbein, Fowler, Boswell, Ambia, Oxford, and Earl Park. Along with this decline in population, the number of farms, total farm acreage, and average size of farms has diminished. This has caused a decrease in the number of farm owners and tenants. Another fact illustrating the depressed condition of agriculture is that the total value of farm land and buildings in 1935 was almost one-third the 1920 figure. There is some indication that the economic depression has tended to reverse the normal process of the country dweller moving to the city. In Benton County there were slightly more farm dwellers in 1935 than in 1930.

SOURCES

1. HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY, 3 vol., Barce & Jones
2. BENTON COUNTY AND HISTORIC OXFORD, 3 vol., J. S. Birch
3. COUNTY BOUNDARIES, Pence & Armstrong

Benton County, with its county seat at Fowler, is a political subdivision of the State of Indiana for administrative purposes, and holds, therefore, only such powers of local government as have been prescribed by law. Benton County was organized by an act of the general assembly, effective February 18, 1840 (Laws of Indiana 1839-40, p. 63.) Its present form of government, as it functions today, is the result of its development under the original constitution of 1816, the present constitution adopted in 1851, and nearly a century and a quarter of legislative action.

The county system of government is an inheritance from England and the American colonies, whence pioneers in Indiana brought their customs and laws. Its beginning in Indiana was by the laws of the Northwest Territory, which provided for a governing body called the board of county commissioners. (Laws of Northwest Territory, Acts 1799, ch. 32, sec. 8.) The administrative duties were executed by the sheriff (Ibid., 1788, ch.2, sec. C), clerk (Ibid., ch. 2, p. 11), coroner (Ibid., ch. 9, sec. 1), recorder (Ibid., 1795, sec. 1, p. 102). Under the laws of Indiana Territory of 1802, the office of county surveyor was established. (Laws of Indiana Territory, 1802, ch. 1, sec. 1.)

In the year 1816, Indiana was admitted to the Union, and the constitution of that year provided for the election in each county of the officers named above. To these were added by legislative enactment in 1817, the office of county treasurer. (Acts 1817, ch. 17, p. 119.) The next major change in the county organization occurred in 1841 when the office of the auditor was established. (Acts 1841, ch. 2, sec. 1.) At the

organization of Benton County, these offices were established under the authority of the constitution of 1816 and the laws of Indiana.

As Indiana developed, there was much dissatisfaction with the Constitution of 1816, but repeated attempts to change it did not succeed until 1851, when a constitutional convention was called to frame a new constitution. This constitution was adopted in 1852, and with some alterations by later amendments, remains the Constitution of Indiana.

Each county has its own individual governmental set-up. Although the Constitution of 1851 forbids special legislation, the general assembly has provided necessary variations for counties, by classification based chiefly on population. Urban and rural areas obviously cannot be governed by the same system or number of officers. Every county has the constitutional offices, but the statutory officers vary greatly in number, powers, and duties. The latter may be compulsory in all counties, or they may be optional and therefore established in only a few instances; others may be authorized in only certain classes of counties, though the class may include but one county.

Since the establishment in each county of a county council in 1899, Indiana stands alone among the States of the Union in having a dual system of county governing boards. Each county is governed by a board of commissioners and a county council. Their duties, with technical distinctions, are enumerated in their proper places below.

From the beginning of the present century a tendency toward centralization of power in the hands of State authorities has taken from the county officials many of their powers and duties and has greatly lessened the scope of these remaining. In the older fields of finance, roads, and education,

the State's supervision has greatly increased, and creation of newer State departments, such as police, food and fire inspection, and public welfare, has caused heavy erosion of local responsibility and control.

Present Administration

The Constitution of 1851 provides for the election of a clerk of the circuit court, who keeps the records of the proceedings of all the courts in the county; an auditor, who keeps records of county financial matters and records dealing in real property and the estates of private citizens; a recorder, whose duties are to keep a record of every conveyance or other instrument entitled and required by law to be recorded; a treasurer, who receives all money coming to the county and keeps a record of same; a sheriff, who is conservator of the peace and who carries out court orders; a coroner, who investigates violent deaths and those of suspicious circumstances; and a surveyor, who prepares plans and specifications for the improvement of public works and establishes boundaries for public and private lands and since 1933 has had charge of drainage systems, (Ind. Const., art. 6, sec. 2). The constitution provides for two other officers--circuit judge and prosecuting attorney--who legally are a part of the circuit, which may include one or more counties. Since the adoption of the constitution, the general assembly has prescribed the establishment of additional departments.

The present leading governing body of the county is the board of commissioners, often called the "county board", elected for a term of three years. The board provides buildings to house county business, furnishes public squares and grounds, audits the accounts of county officers who

handle money, changes boundaries of townships as it sees fit, and is charged with the maintenance of county roads and highways. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat., 1852; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 26-601.) The board is also charged with many specific duties authorized by statutes and are either mandatory or optional.

Another governing body is the county council, created in 1899, by statute, to act as a check upon the board of county commissioners by controlling the finances of county government. This council consists of seven members who are elected for a term of four years. One member is elected from each councilmanic district by the citizens of the district and three members are elected at large from the county. The county auditor acts as clerk of the council. The council has power to fix certain tax rates, the exclusive right to make appropriations out of the county treasury, and the exclusive right to authorize the borrowing of money for the county. (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 26-501, 26-502, 26-515, 26-532.)

In 1873, by legislative enactment, the office of county superintendent of schools was created. The superintendent is elected by the township trustees and serves for a term of four years. His duties are specifically set out in the statutes, and he is under the jurisdiction of the State board of public instruction. (Acts 1873, 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 28-702.)

By an act of 1873, a county board of education was created. The board consists of the county superintendent of schools, the township trustees, and the chairman of the school trustees of each city and town of the county. The duties of the board are to consider the general wants and needs of the schools and matters relating to the purchase of school furniture, books, maps, charts, etc. (Acts 1873; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 28-801.)

An act of 1891 created the office of health commissioner, who elected by the county commissioners to serve for a term of four years. It is his duty to safeguard the health and to promote sanitary systems for the citizens of the county. He is also required to keep records of contagious diseases, births, deaths, and marriages. (Acts 1891; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 35-108.)

By an act of 1891 the office of county assessor was created. The assessor is elected for a four-year term. His duties are to assess omitted real and personal property, to instruct the township assessors, to carry out the orders of the State tax board, and to act as president of the county board of review. (Acts 1891; ch. 99.)

An act of 1891 created the county board of review, whose members consist of the county assessor, county auditor, and county treasurer. (Acts 1891; ch. 99.) This act was amended in 1919 to include two freeholders of opposite political parties as members of the board. The duty of this board is to equalize unfair assessments on real and personal property. (Acts 1919; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 64-1201.)

In 1907, a legislative act created a county board of finance, consisting of the board of county commissioners. The county auditor acts as secretary. This board has the custody of the county funds and selects the depositories. (Acts 1907; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 61-606, 61-607.) The general assembly of 1935 repealed this act and in the same session revived it as part of the depository act, reestablishing the board of finance practically unaltered. (Acts 1935; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1936 Supplement, Sec. 61-606, 61-628 to 61-639.)

By an act of 1913, the legislature made provisions for the creation of the office of agricultural agent, legally termed county agent, but commonly

referred to by the descriptive name. Inasmuch as the agent of the State in the sale of State lands originally was called the county agent, the popular term is used here. The act provides that this office may come into existence whenever a certain number of residents of the county shall petition therefore. The appointment is made annually by Purdue University and ratified by the county board of education. Upon proper petition, this office was established in Benton County, July 1, 1913. The duties of the county agent are to disseminate information for the promotion and advancement of agriculture, horticulture, and domestic science. (Acts 1913; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 28-4911.) By an act of 1931, the office of home demonstration agent was created, whose work is supplemental to the office of the agricultural agent. (Acts 1931; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 28-5627.)

The office of superintendent of highways, established in 1913, was abolished by an act of 1933, and the office of highway supervisor authorized to be established at the discretion of the board of county commissioners. In Benton County the surveyor, by virtue of his office acts as highway supervisor. (Acts 1933; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 36-1110.)

In 1933 the legislature created a county board of tax adjustment. The board consists of one member of the county council, selected by the council, and six members appointed by the judge of the circuit court. This board has the power, as it deems necessary, to revise, to change or reduce, but not to increase any tax levy or any corresponding items of the budget on which the tax levies are based. (Acts 1933; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 64-304.)

The county board of public welfare was created by an act of 1936. The board consists of five members appointed by the circuit court to serve for

a term of four years. The board is charged with the administration of assistance to dependent children in their own homes, to aged persons, and to all those who are otherwise handicapped. (Acts 1936; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1936 Supplement, Sec. 52-1117.)

Judicial

The judicial system of Benton County, as of other Indiana counties, is prescribed by the State Constitution and the subsequent legislative enactments of the Indiana General Assembly. The Constitution authorized and directed the general assembly to divide into judicial circuits the whole State as the need arose. Benton County forms the seventy-sixth circuit, established in 1929. (Acts 1929; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 4-332.) Before this period, Benton County was a part of a circuit to which another county was attached. The Constitution further provides for the election of a judge and a prosecuting attorney for each circuit, and for a clerk for each county within a circuit. (Indiana Const., Art. 6, Sec. 2; Art. 7, Sec. 9-11.) The circuit court has jurisdiction in all criminal, civil, probate, and juvenile cases, and hears appeals from lower courts.

In 1852, by a legislative act the court of common pleas was created, with limited jurisdiction. The court continued in existence until it was abolished by an act of the legislature in 1873. In earlier times, the common pleas court was a subdivision of the circuit court for certain cause, and had no independent existe nce. (Acts 1852.)

Records System

The establishment of each of these offices caused the beginning of separate records as prescribed by the general assembly under the provisions

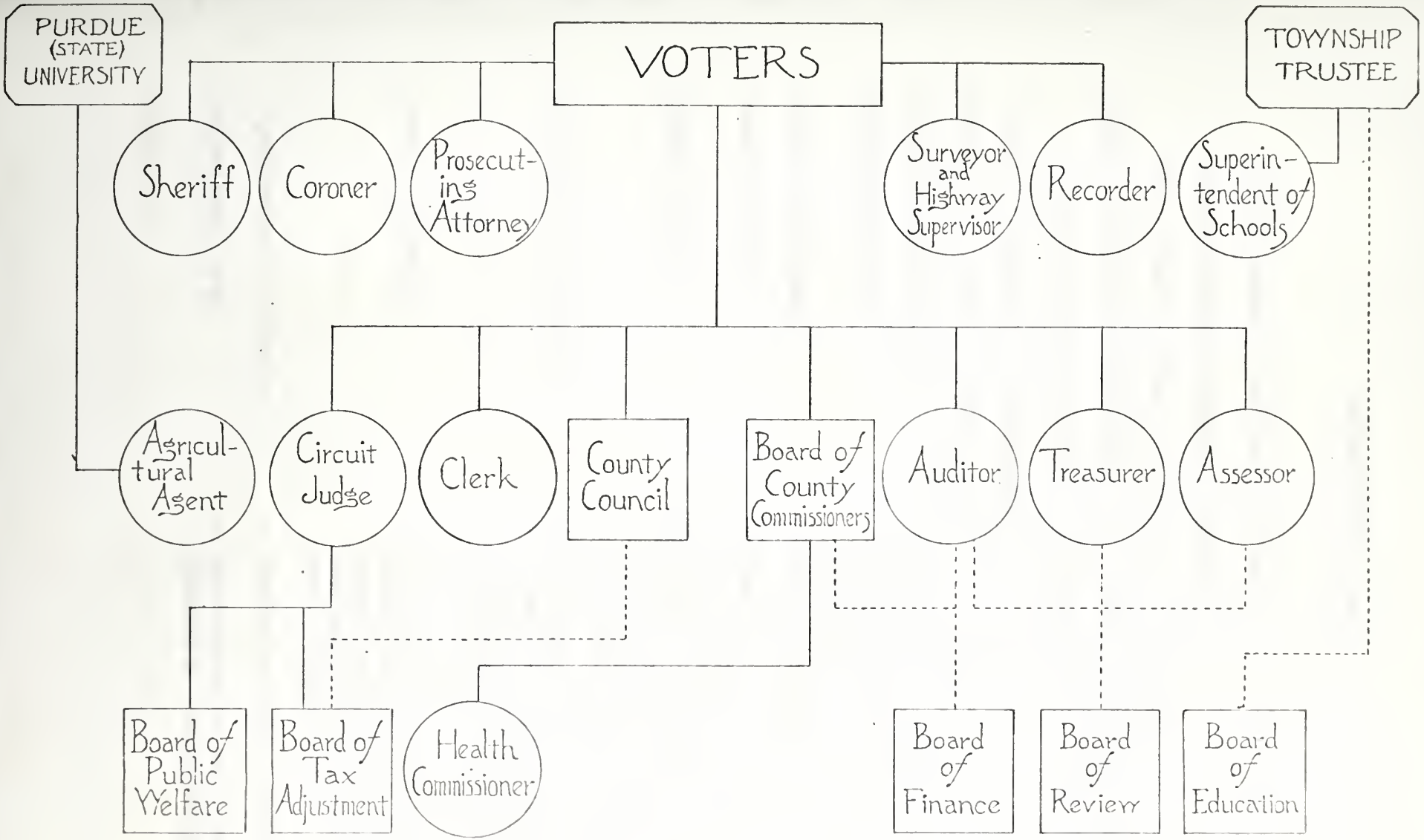
for each respective office. In many of the smaller offices no permanent records have been kept; therefore no survey could be made. Benton County followed its own form of accounting until, in 1909, the legislature established the state board of accounts, which formulates, prescribes, and installs systems of accounting and reporting which are uniform for every public office of the same class. (Acts 1909; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 6-202.) Under this law some of the records were combined to eliminate separation, duplication, and overlapping. The law also permits the use of bound looseleaf records in almost all cases where the records are typed. The quality of the paper and ink and the binding and rebinding practices are left to the judgment of the board of county commissioners, except that a good quality is required.

Whenever it may be necessary for the preservation of the records of any office from mutilation, the board of county commissioners issues an order directing the officer in charge to copy and transcribe the records for preservation. (Acts 1888; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 26-634.)

In 1925 a law was passed permitting county officials, at their discretion, to turn over to the State archives bureau for permanent preservation, any official books, records, documents, original papers, newspaper files, or printed books and material not in current use in their offices. (Acts 1925; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, Sec. 63-320.) This law is optional and has been ineffectual. County officials are loath to part with records, even when no longer used and in spite of lack of storage space, for fear of a possible call for them. Consequently, they have only occasionally availed themselves of this provision for permanent preservation of their old records.

The Historical Records Survey will, in due time, submit sample forms of types of records now in use in the several bureaus of county government. From a study of these forms a model arrangement may be organized for the uniform creation of public records, so that the records created daily may be preserved for posterity.

A CHART OF BENTON COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION


PURDUE (STATE) UNIVERSITY
VOTERS
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
Sheriff
Coroner
Prosecuting Attorney
Surveyor and Highway Supervisor
Recorder
Superintendent of Schools
Agricultural Agent
Circuit Judge
Clerk
County Council
Board of County Commissioners
Auditor
Treasurer
Assessor
Board of Public Welfare
Board of Tax Adjustment
Health Commissioner
Board of Finance
Board of Review
Board of Education

EXPLANATION OF CHART

Circles represent individual officers.

Squares represent agencies in board form.

Solid lines are lines of election or appointment. Broken lines indicate ex-officio relationship. All lines should be read downward.

Auditor, Treasurer, Surveyor, Recorder, Clerk of Court, Coroner, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Assessor, Board of Commissioners, Council, and Judge of Circuit Court-- all elected by voters.

Board of Public Welfare	-- Appointed by judge, circuit court.
Highway Supervisor-	-- By virtue of his office, the county surveyor acts in this capacity.
Health Commissioner	-- Elected by board of commissioners.
Board of Finance	-- Consists of county commissioners, with the auditor as secretary.
Board of Review	-- Composed of assessor as president, auditor as secretary, treasurer, and two freeholders of county appointed by judge of circuit court.
Board of Tax Adjustment	-- Composed of one member of the county council, a township trustee, the mayor, a member of school board, and three resident freeholders appointed by judge of circuit court.
Board of Education	-- Composed of township trustees of Benton County, the county superintendent of schools, and the chairman of the school trustees of each city or town in Benton County.
Superintendent of Schools	-- Elected by township trustees.
Agricultural Agent	-- Appointed by Purdue University with approval of county board of education.

Benton County Courthouse, built in 1874 of brick and limestone, stands on a wooded square in Fowler. Consisting of three floors and a basement, it measures 100' in length, 56' in width, and 71' in height, with a large tower rising above the main entrance. In the basement are the office of the agricultural agent and a bum room. On the first floor are the offices of the clerk, the recorder, the auditor, the treasurer, and the superintendent of schools. On the second floor is the sheriff's office. No records are housed on the third floor.

Commissioners

The records of the commissioners are housed in the auditor's private office and vault and in the bum room (q. v., infra).

County Council

Records of the county council are housed in the auditor's vault (q. V., infra).

Clerk

Three rooms--a main office, a private office, and a vault--on the southwest corner of the first floor, are occupied by the clerk. All these rooms are well ventilated and lighted, having wooden floors, plaster ceilings and plaster walls, and are clean and in good condition, providing good accommodations for users of the records. The main office, measuring 20' by 14' by 15', contains 28' of steel shelving housing 10'

of bound volumes and 40' of unbound records in filing cabinets. The private office, narrower by 5' than the main office, contains 5' of bound volumes and 104' of unbound records in file boxes 18" deep, completely occupying the shelving; a more compact arrangement, however, would provide space for expansion. The vault is 12' square and is equipped with steel roller shelving which is completely filled by 132' of bound volumes, 216' of unbound records in file boxes 13" deep, and 2' of miscellaneous material; no space for expansion is available here. Of the clerk's records 5% are housed in the main office, 5% in the private office, 85% in the vault, and 10% in the bun room.

Recorder

The recorder occupies an office and a vault on the east side of the first floor, the former about twice the size of the latter. Both office and vault have wood floors and plastered walls and ceilings, and ventilation and lighting alike are good. The office, measuring 19' by 15' by 14', houses 8' of bound volumes on steel shelving and provides good accommodations for users of the records; the vault, equipped with 288' of shelving, houses 260' of bound volumes and 24' of unbound records in file boxes 25" deep, and provides fair accommodations for users of the records. Space for expansion is available on the present shelving in the vault, and in both office and vault space is also available for installation of additional shelving. Ten per cent of the recorder's records are housed in the office and 90% in the vault. The vault houses, in addition, 10% of the surveyor's records.

Sheriff

On the southwest corner of the second floor is the sheriff's office, a well lighted, well ventilated room measuring 12' by 12' by 15' with wooden flooring and plastered walls and ceiling. Here are housed 95% of the sheriff's records, comprising 2' of bound volumes, two-thirds of the shelving being unoccupied. Users of the records are furnished with satisfactory accommodations in this room. The other 5% of the sheriff's records are housed in the bum room.

Coroner

All records of the coroner are kept with the clerk's records (q. v., supra).

Auditor

The entire northeast quarter of the first floor is occupied by the auditor's main office, private office, and vault, three rooms which are well ventilated, well lighted, and clean, having wooden floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings, and providing adequate accommodations for persons consulting the records. In the main office, whose dimensions are 16' by 15' by 14', is a safe containing 12' of unbound records in file boxes 11" deep--approximately 1% of the auditor's records. In the private office, longer by 3' than the main office, are 12' of bound volumes on wood shelving in a cabinet; these comprise about 2% each of the records of the auditor and commissioner. In the vault are 500' of bound volumes, 65' of unbound records in file boxes 13" deep, and 10' of miscellaneous material--all of which comprise 87% of the records of

the auditor; all the records of the assessor, the county council, the board of review, the board of tax adjustment, and the board of finance; and 90% of the records of the commissioners. In the main office and vault, space for expansion is provided on the present shelving; in the private office, space is available for additional shelving. The other 10% of the auditor's records are in the bum room.

Assessor

Since the assessor has no office in the courthouse, his records are housed in the auditor's vault (q. v., supra).

Board of Review

All records of the board of review are kept in the auditor's vault (q. v., supra).

Board of Tax Adjustment

The records of the board of tax adjustment are housed in the auditor's vault (q. v., supra).

Board of Finance

The records of the board of finance likewise are housed in the auditor's vault (q. v., supra).

Treasurer

The treasurer occupies a main and a private office on the northwest corner of the first floor; only the former is used for the housing of records. This is a large room, 30' by 18' by 15', which had a wood floor,

plaster walls and plaster ceilings, and is well ventilated, well lighted, and clean. Eighty-four feet of steel shelving house 60' of bound volumes and 24' of unbound records in file boxes 18" deep, but ample space is provided for the installation of new shelving. These records comprise 70% of those of the treasurer, the remaining 30% being housed in the bum room. Accommodations provided for users of the records in this office are satisfactory.

Board of Education

The records of the board of education are kept by the superintendent of schools and are housed in his office (q. v., supra).

Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent of schools occupies an office 15' by 15' by 14' at the southeast corner of the first floor. Well lighted and well ventilated, the office has wooden flooring and plaster walls and ceiling, and is equipped with wood and steel shelving housing 45' of bound volumes, 15' of unbound records in file boxes 10" and 13" deep, and 23' of miscellaneous material. These occupy all the present shelving, but additional shelving can be installed. Records housed here consist of 99% of the records of the superintendent of schools and all those of the board of education, 1% of the superintendent's records being housed in the bum room. Persons consulting the records in this office can be furnished with good accommodations.

Health Commissioner

The office of the health commissioner is located in the incumbent's private office in his residence at Oxford. This room, measuring 15' by 15' by 8', has a wood floor, plaster walls, and plaster ceiling and is well lighted and well ventilated. All the records of the health commissioner--3' of bound and 1' of unbound records stacked on the floor--are housed here, and adequate accommodations are provided for users of the records.

Board of Public Welfare

The board of public welfare occupies an office 18' by 12' by 15', on the west side of the first floor. This room is well lighted, well ventilated, and clean; it has a wood floor, plaster walls and plaster ceiling, and provides excellent accommodations for users of the records. In steel file boxes 24" deep are housed 12' of bound volumes and 20' of unbound records--all the records of the board of public welfare.

Surveyor

The surveyor, who also fills the duties of highway commissioner, houses his records in the recorder's vault and the bum room (v. Recorder, supra; Bum Room, infra).

Agricultural Agent

In the basement, in the southeast corner, is an office, well lighted and well ventilated, occupied by the agricultural agent and the home demonstration agent, his assistant. Measuring 16' by 16' by 8',

this office has a concrete floor and plaster walls and ceiling. One foot of bound volumes and 6' of unbound records in a filing cabinet are housed here, allowing ample space for expansion with present equipment. These records comprise all the records of the agricultural agent, and persons consulting these are furnished with satisfactory accommodations.

Bum Room

The bum room, or storage room for records, is a moderately sized room in the northeast corner of the basement. Poor lighting and poor ventilation are encountered here, and the room, which has a brick floor, brick walls, and plaster ceiling, is rather dusty and damp. The 190' of shelving are all occupied by bound volumes, with an excess of 107' stacked on the floor. Stacked on the floor also is a large amount of unbound records the number of which cannot be determined owing to the manner in which they are stacked. These consist of 90% of the records of the surveyor, 30% of the records of the treasurer, 10% of the records of the assessor, 8% of the records of the commissioners, 5% each of the records of the clerk and the sheriff, and 1% of the records of the superintendent of schools. No accommodations for users of the records are provided in this room.

Review

In reviewing this report, certain conditions must inevitably impress the reader. Lest this report be thought hypercritical, it should be stated here that housing conditions in Benton County are satisfactory on the whole; but as long as any conditions remain which are open to improvement, they should be set forth here.

These conditions are: first, crowding in the clerk's vault, a condition which can possibly be remedied by removing some of the older records to the bum room; second, provision for expansion in the auditor's private office and the treasurer's office, which can be accomplished easily; third, provision of more space for records in the office of the superintendent of schools, a condition which, we are advised, is now being taken care of; and last, the correction of general conditions--ventilation, lighting and dampness--in the bum room, and the construction of additional shelving in this room. It is understood that the officials of this county are considering the construction of another storage room for records, and this plan is sincerely and respectfully recommended by the Historical Records Survey.

The style Manual of the United States Government Printing Office is the authority followed herein.

alph.	alphabetical or alphabetically
Ann.	Annotated
art.	article
arr.	arranged
aver.	average
bdl.	bundle
Bldg.	Building
ch.	chapter
chron.	chronological or chronologically
C. C.	County Courthouse
Const.	Constitution
hdw.	handwritten
ib., ibid.	ibidem (same reference as that immediately foregoing)
Ind.	Indiana
infra	below
NE.	Northeast
no., nos.	number, numbers
NW.	Northwest
off.	office
p., pp.	page, pages
q. v.	which see
Rev. Stat.	Revised Statutes

rm.	room
Sec.	Section
SE.	Southeast
stg.	storage
SW.	Southwest
supra	above
twp.	township
U. S.	United States
vol., vols.	volume, volumes
vt.	vault

Other abbreviations occasionally used will be obvious from the context.

Explanation to Inventory

The inventory of the records of each bureau is preceded by an explanatory section, giving legal status and functions of each.

Each entry has two parts, or paragraphs: Title and description. Occasionally an entry will have a cross-reference paragraph.

I. The title consists of:

1. Entry number. The entries are numbered consecutively within the county.

2. Titles in capitals, enclosed in parentheses, are supplied by the Historical Records Survey, because either the volume or file has no title or an incorrect title. Words in capitals and lower case, enclosed in parentheses, are supplementary to the title, where it is necessary to explain the type of records more fully.

3. Period covered by the record, showing beginning and ending dates. A dash in place of an ending date denotes a continuous open record.

4. Quantity.

5. Markings, if a series or a part of a series. Where the entry consists of one volume or of vol. 1 only, the marking is omitted.

6. Variation in numbering.

7. Missing volumes.

8. Variations in title.

II. The description consists of:

1. A complete description of the record, its contents, and its purpose, with a resume of the column headings or subjects treated.

2. Method of indexing or arrangement.

3. Nature of recording.

4. Condition. Unless good or excellent, in which case, it is omitted.

5. Number of pages, averaged for a series.

6. Size, averaged for a series, is given in inches unless otherwise specified; hence the inch sign is omitted.

7. Location.

III. Cross references made to other entries.

1. For records which have a separate index.

2. For records having earlier or later recordings under a different title or type of record.

3. For records for which additional information may be found in other entries.

The board of commissioners is a statutory body comprising three members elected for a term of three years. Elections are so arranged that one member shall retire each year. The county is divided into three districts from each of which one member must be elected by all the voters in the county. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1929; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-601, 26-602, 26-603.)

Benton County has had a board of commissioners from its creation, as provided for in the Constitution of 1816 and the Constitution of 1851. The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The board was intended to be the administrative and executive head of the county. Its powers were extensive and often abused. In 1899 the county council (q. v.) was created as a check upon the commissioners in fiscal matters. (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-501, 26-515, 26-529, 26-532, 26-533.)

The board of commissioners is a corporate body with powers to sue and be sued, and possessing duties, rights, and powers incident to corporations (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-606). It meets in regular session every month on the first Monday and in special sessions as called by the county auditor, its ex-officio clerk (Acts 1863; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-607.)

Its principal functions are; Control of county property, allowance of claims against county, (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns' Ind.

Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-620), letting of county contracts, supervision of contracts of maintenance of roads and bridges (Acts 1905; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 36-1301), and the preparation of annual budget estimates. (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-516). It appoints many county officials and exercises the right of eminent domain (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-2101 to 26-2106). Other powers, in specific instances, have been conferred upon the board by the legislature; chiefly, abolition or change of township or precinct boundary lines (Acts 1859; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-701), establishment of libraries (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 41-5021) and hospitals (Acts 1903; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 22-3201), payment of bounties, offering of rewards (Acts 1875; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-1101), and aid to war veterans.

The commissioners, by virtue of their office, were constituted a board of turnpike directors, by an act of 1879, for the management and control of all free turnpikes in the county. Each director had personal supervision of one district. Their powers are to appoint suitable persons to supervise the work of repairs; contract for labor and materials; enter upon lands to take gravel, and to give certificates of payment;and to appoint a clerk of the board (Acts 1879. p. 226). An act of 1905 made the county auditor the clerk of the board. (Acts 1905, pp. 521-579.)

This board was abolished in 1913, and the highways were placed in charge of a superintendent of highways appointed by the commissioners. (Acts 1913, ch. 330, sec. 1, p. 877.)

This office was likewise abolished twenty years later, and super-

vision of highways was transferred to the surveyor (q. v.), in case the commissioners have not appointed a highway supervisor (q. v.). (Acts 1933; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 36-1101 to 36-1109.)

Court Proceedings and Reports

1. COMMISSIONERS' RECORD, 1866-1934. 27 vols. (6-29, C-E). Minutes of proceedings in sessions, showing date, roll call, discussions about county employees wages, materials and supplies, gravel roads, petitions and school funds. No index. Hdw. and typed, alternatingly. 488 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recorder's vt.

2. COMMISSIONERS' DOCKET, 1876-92. 3 vols. (2-4). Record of papers submitted for action, showing names of principals, date of filing, content of petition or amount of claim, decision of commissioners, and no. of order. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

3. (COMMISSIONER'S RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS), 1917. 1 file box. Original instruments, showing moneys and other relief allowed for poor aid. Arr. chron. 9 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

4. VALUATION OF TAXABLE INTANGIBLES, 1933--. 3 file drawers. Original assessment sheets, showing description of intangibles, face value, value fixed by assessor, and action of State tax board. Arr. chron. 26 x 13 x 11. Auditor's off.

5. ESTIMATES OF EXPENSE, COUNTY OFFICERS, 1922--. 1 file box. Estimated future expenditures for county offices and institutions, showing titles of funds, itemized expenditures, oath as to truth of statement, and attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

Court Proceedings and Reports(continued)

6. PROOF OF PUBLICATION, 1927--. 3 file boxes.
Original documents, showing date, name of newspaper clipping of article, dates, and no. of times article appeared, amount of charges, publishers affidavit and attest. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

7. QUARTERLY REPORTS, 1920--. 1 file box.
Reports of auditor to board of commissioners of fees collected, showing dates, and amounts collected, amounts still outstanding, total amount, auditor's oath, and clerk's attest. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

Bond Issues

8. BIDS ON BONDS, 1927-32. 1 file box.
Original documents, showing amount of bond, bid received, life of bond, name of bidder, interest and premium amount and treasurer's oath. No index. 12 x 12 x 3. Treasurer's off.

9. BOND AND COUPON RECORD, 1900-1932. 1 vol. 1932--, missing.
Record of bond and coupon maturity dates, showing amount, purpose, rate of interest and date. Indexed alph, by designation of bond. Hdw. 410 pp. 12 x 19 x 2. Auditor's vt.

10. MISCELLANEOUS BONDS, 1864-1925. 6 file drawers, 3 file boxes, 3 bundles.
Collection of county road bonds, bridge bonds, ditch bonds, and receipts. No index. Bundles, 12 x 12 x 12, 3 file boxes, 12 x 18 x 3, file drawers, 18 x 12 x 4. Basement"bum" rm.

Court Proceedings and Reports--Bond Issues(continued)

11. CANCELED BONDS, 1927-32. 1 file box.
Canceled bridge, ditch and county farm bonds, showing date, parties concerned, amount of bond, attest. No index. 11 x 5 x 13. Auditor's off.

12. COUNTY UNIT AND DRAINAGE DITCH BONDS, 1933--. 3 file drawers.
Canceled gravel road and ditch coupons, showing date, rate of interest, names of parties concerned, amount of coupon, witness, attest by auditor. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's off.

Petitions

13. FILE DOCKET, 1910-30. 1 vol.
Record of petitions for stone and gravel roads, showing petitioners, location, description and length of road, and date of filing petition. Arr. chron. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 13 x 13. Auditor's vt.

14. ROAD RECORD, 1852-78. 2 vols.
Record of petitions for highways and roads, showing date, location and description. No index. Hdw. 560 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Auditor's vt.

Requisitions, Bids and Contracts

15. REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES, 1914-27. 6 file boxes. 1918-21, missing.
Requisitions for county infirmary supplies for period of 3 months, showing year, month, day, alph. list of supplies needed, and amount allowed. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

16. BIDDERS' RECORD, 1935--. 1 vol.
Record of bids for materials and supplies, showing date, name of bidder,

Court Proceedings and Reports--Requisitions, Bids and Contracts(continued)

quantity bid on, price per unit; date of delivery together with notations, showing date of opening bids, and dates of advertising. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 15 x 14 x 13/4. Auditor's vt.

17. CONTRACTORS BID, AFFIDAVIT, BOND, AND CONTRACT, 1923-33. 6 file boxes.

Contractor's original bids, showing date, nature of bid, publication dates, date of opening bids, bond and names of sureties, affidavit, signature and attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

18. BIDS FOR EQUIPMENT, 1933. 5 file boxes.

Bids on equipment and supplies, showing date, names of firm, description of articles bid for, price, affidavit, signature of firm official, attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

19. BIDS ON ROADS AND MACHINERY, 1916-31. 1 file box.

Bids and contracts on road machinery, showing date, description and guarantee of machinery, price, affidavit, signature of firm official, and attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

20. CONTRACTS, 1902--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of contracts for office supplies, printing, road construction and materials. Indexed alph. by titles of contracts. Typed. 588 pp. 18 x 14 x 2 3/4. Auditor's vt.

21. CONTRACTS, 1936--. 1 file box.

Contracts for equipment, showing serial no., date, firm name, description of equipment, guaranty, signatures, and attest. Arr. numerically. 11 x 5 x 18. Auditor's off.

Court Proceedings and Reports--Requisitions, Bids and Contracts(continued).

22. (INSURANCE CONTRACTS) 1936--. 7 file boxes.
Fire insurance policies, showing date, amount of insurance, premium, title of policy holder, name of agent, location and description of insured property, and signatures. Arr. chron. 11 x 5 x 13. Auditor's off.

Claims and Allowances

23. CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE RECORD, 1897--. 6 vols.
Record of claims allowed by commissioners, showing claim no., date, name of payee, address, cause, amount, appropriation account, amount allowed, and warrant no. Arr. chron. Hdw. 251 pp. 17 x 12 x 2¼. Basement "bum" rm.

24. COMMISSIONERS' ALLOWANCES, 1912--. 28 file boxes.
Record of assistant highway supervisor, showing name of claimant, title of appropriation, cause, amount, claimants affidavit, and attest by auditor. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

25. COUNTY AUDITOR'S REGISTER, 1935--. 1 vol.
Record of poor relief claims passed for payment, showing township trustees file no., date, vendors name, supplies furnished, amount, amount apportioned from Federal and county funds, attest by auditor, and warrant no. Arr. chron. Hdw. 75 pp. 12 x 17 x 1½. Auditor's vt.

26. TOWNSHIP POOR RECORD, 1905-10. 1 vol.
Record of county funds paid to vendors for furnishing supplies on trustees orders, showing date, order no., vendors name and address, cause, amount,

Court Proceedings and Reports--Claims and Allowances(continued)

balance, and quietus no. Arr. chron. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Basement stg. rm.

27. POOR CLAIM, 1935--. 4 file boxes.

Poor relief claims, showing recipient's name, list of supplies furnished, kind of relief, amount, date of purchase, order no., and trustee's attest. Arr. numerically. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

28. BURIAL OF SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, 1891. 1 vol.

Record showing name, date of enlistment, rank, command, branch of service, date discharged, place of burial, date of death, occupation in life, age, total expenditure, and trustee's attest. Indexed alph. by deceased. Hdw. on printed form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Basement "bum" rm.

See also entries 65-65a, 162-163.

29. COUNTY FARM REPORT, 1929-34. 1 box.

Inventory and sale account, showing date of inventory, heads of live stock on farm, description and heads placed on sale, date of sale, amount realized per head, name and address of purchaser, total proceeds of sale, and signature of superintendent. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

30. STATE INSTITUTIONS, 1933--. 1 file box.

Expense accounts of county and State institutions for housing and attending indigent Benton County patients, showing name and residence of patient, date admitted, total amount due, and auditor's attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

31. (PAID CLAIMS), 1907-31. 63 bundles.

Paid claims and appropriation warrants for hospital bills, doctor bills, and

Court Proceedings and Reports--Claims and Allowances(continued)

other poor relief expenditures. No index. 7 x 9 x ½. Basement "bum" rm.

Roads, Bridges and Ditches

32. STATE HIGHWAY, 1927-- 1 file box.

Reports on land purchased by State for right of way, showing name of highway superintendent, purchase price to be paid to county, amount paid for condemning land, dates of purchases and payments made, date submitted, and road agent's attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

33. ROAD WARRANTS, 1925-32. 1 vol.

Record of ditch, road, and other improvement warrants, showing date, payee, amount, and fund. Arr. alph. Hdw. 200 pp, 15 x 17 x 1 3/4. Auditor's vt.

34. DITCHES, 1905-31. 6 file boxes.

Certified copies of the proceedings of the board of county commissioners, pertaining to petitions for ditches. Arr. by names of ditches. 9 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

35. BOND OF DITCH COMMISSIONERS, 1902-04. 1 file box.

Original bonds, showing name, amount of bond, date, obligation, oath and attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

36. DITCHES (VIEWERS' REPORTS), 1900--. 6 file boxes.

Report of viewers, showing name of ditch, names of landowners benefited, length of ditch, oath, date, and auditor's attest. Arr. by names of ditches. 9 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

Court Proceedings and Reports--Roads, Bridges and Ditches(continued)

37. DITCHES (ENGINEERS' REPORTS), 1905-31. 6 file boxes.
Engineer's original reports, showing date, name of ditch, description of land benefited, assessments, recapitulation, total paid, total bonds to be issued, oath, and signatures of engineer and treasurer. Arr. by names of ditches. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

38. DITCHES (ORDERS), 1905-31. 6 file boxes.
Commissioners' orders to construct ditches, showing date, serial no., names of landowners benefited, proof of service, views, auditor's signature and attest. Arr. by names of ditches. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

39. RECORD OF DITCH PAYMENTS, 1904-21. 1 vol.
Record of payments made on road and ditch assessments, showing cost of construction, nature of improvements, contractor, contract price, no. of voucher, payees name, and amount paid. Arr. by title of improvement. Hdw. 260 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Basement "bum" rm.

II COUNTY COUNCIL

In 1899 the legislature created the county council. This council consists of seven members who are elected for a term of four years and must be a resident freeholder of the county. One member is elected from each of the four councilmanic districts by the voters of the district and three members are elected by the voters of the county at large. The council elects its own president and the auditor acts as its clerk. The sheriff is required to execute the orders of the council. (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-501 and 2, 25-509, 26-515, 26-532.)

The inception date of this board in Benton County is 1899. All records are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The regular annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday for the purpose of fixing the tax rate and adopting the budget, and continues from day to day until its business is completed. Special meetings may be called by the auditor or a majority of the members. Sessions must be public. Although a majority of the council constitutes a quorum, the passage of ordinances requires a majority of all members; and extraordinary majorities are required by law in certain instances; a three-fourths' vote to increase or insert an item in the budget estimates submitted by the county agencies through the auditor; a two-thirds' vote to make additional appropriations at special meetings.

The power of fixing the tax rate where it is not fixed by law, is vested exclusively in the council, likewise the power of making appropriations of money to be paid out of the county treasury (Acts 1899; Burns' 1933 Stat., 26-515).

The council passes on all budget estimates submitted by county officials (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-520), as well as emergency appropriations (Acts 1899, 1907, 1913; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-521).

The council has the exclusive power to authorize the borrowing of money for the county and the issuing of bonds (Acts 1899, 1921, 1929; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-532). No sale or purchase by the county of real estate of the value of $1,000 or more shall take place without authorization of the council (Acts 1899; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 26-534).

40. COUNTY COUNCIL RECORD, 1899--. 1 vol.
Minutes of the council meetings, showing roll call, place and time of meeting, business transacted, and signatures of members. Arr. chron. 1899-1902, hdw.; 1902--, typed. 584 pp. 18 x 13 x 2¼. Auditor's vt.

41-42. TAX LEVY, 1900-32. 2 file boxes.
Appropriation ordinances, showing date, estimate of expenditures, amount and funds, signatures of auditor and clerk. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

III CLERK

The clerk of the circuit court, commonly referred to as "county clerk", is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term, and not entitled to hold office more than eight years of any twelve-year period. (Indiana Const., art. 6, sec. 2; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 49-2701.)

The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

Elected as clerk of the cirucit court, the incumbent of the office also serves, by statutory provisions, as clerk of any and all county courts and as such is required to keep a set of dockets and records for all courts. (2 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns' ibid., 49-2706.)

In addition to his court duties, numerous other duties are imposed upon the clerk by statute. He serves ex officio as registration officer for the county and as a member of the various county election boards (Acts 1933; Burns' ibid., 29-306). In discharging his election duties he is required to keep records of all elections in the county (Acts 1906; Burns' ibid., 29-1404), issue certificates of election to successful candidates (Acts 1881; Burns' ibid., 29-1501), and act as clerk to the commissioners appointed by the circuit court to make a recount in contested elections (Acts 1881 Special Session; Burns' ibid., 29-2103).

Other important duties of the clerk are the issuance of marriage licenses (Acts 1852; Burns' ibid., 44-201); of professional licenses; (Acts 1897; Burns' ibid., 63-1302), dentists' (Acts 1913; Burns' ibid., 63-506), optometrists' (Acts 1907; Burns ibid., 63-1009), veterinarians' and nurses' (Acts 1905; Burns' ibid., 63-903) licenses; hunting, fishing, and trapping

licenses; business licenses such as poultry dealers (Acts 1917; Burns' ibid., 48-1407), junk dealers (Acts 1905; Burns' ibid., 49-703), petty money lenders, and permits to carry firearms (Acts 1925; Burns' ibid., 10-4721). He approves the bonds of county officers (Acts 1852; Burns' ibid., 49-105), and approves and files the bonds of notaries (Acts 1852; Burns' ibid., 49-3503). He is required to keep a record of firm and partnership certificates (Acts 1909; Burns' ibid., 50-201), insurance agents' certificates, and he also records many legal instruments.

Elections

Voters

43. INTENTIONS TO BECOME ELECTORS-BENTON COUNTY, 1890-92. 1 vol. Record of persons filing intentions to become electors, showing date of notice, name of elector, age, twp., town or city, address, no. of ward and precinct. Arr. alph. by elector. Hdw. on printed form. 260 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's vt.

44. (VOTER'S REGISTER), 1924--. 126 vols.
Names of registered voters, showing name and address of voter, no. of days in twp., precinct, date, place of birth, age, if naturalized, if by virtue of naturalization of father or husband, father's or husband's name, when and where father or husband was naturalized, State, county, signature of voter, if subscribed and sworn to, date, month, year, and name of clerk. Indexed alph. by name of voter. 10 x 18 x 1. Basement "bum" rm.

Elections(continued)

Returns

45. ELECTION RECORD-BENTON COUTNY, 1890--. 2 vols. (1-2). Record of election of county officers, showing name of candidate, name or no. of precinct, twp., and total vote. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off.

46. OATH OF CLERK OF ELECTIONS, 1922. 1 file box. Clerk's oath of office, showing date, name of party, State, county, precinct, ward, twp., inspector of election, and sworn oath to perform duties faithfully. No index. 9 x 4 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

47. REGISTRATION CLERK, 1924-. 1 file box. Oath of registration clerk, showing name of precinct, ward, twp., city, State, county, name of political party, clerk in charge, and oath to support constitution of U. S. No index. 9 x 4 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

Official Bonds
(See also entries 224-228)

48. OFFICIAL BOND RECORD-BENTON COUNTY, 1852-1925. 3 vols. (1-3). Record of bonds posted by officials of county, and notary bonds, showing parties, county, State, amount of bond, date, month, year, oath, witness, clerk's signature, and notary seal. Indexed alph. by name of official. 1852-1901, hdw.; 1901-25, typed. 505 pp. 17 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off.

49. OFFICIAL BOND INDEX RECORD, 1906-15. 2 vols. (1-2). General index to bond record, showing principal, kind of bond, amount of bond, date of expiration, names of sureties, date of bond; bond record,

Official Bonds(continued)

showing book and page nos., when released, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of bond holder. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

50. REGISTER OF COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, 1852-1910. 1 vol. Record of county and twp. officials, showing name of officer, when commissioned, when qualified, bond, expiration of term, names of sureties, when vacancy occurred, and remarks. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 260 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's vt.

Licenses

Marriage
(See also entries 274-275)

51. APPLICATION AND MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD, 1841--. 14 vols. (1-13; 1 vol. numbered 2½).

Record of marriages and returns, showing application for marriage license, name of male and female, date, address, occupation, relatives, if married before, health conditions, signatures of applicants, names of parents, State, county, date, if subscribed and sworn, and clerk's signature. Indexed alph. by applicant's name. Hdw. on printed form. 461 pp. 15 x 11 x 2. Clerk's vt.

52. MARRIAGE RETURNS, Oct. 19, 1936-Dec. 1, 1936. 1 file box. State board of healths' returns of marriages, showing names of bride and groom, address, occupation, age, race, birthplace, nationality, place of marriage, county, State, witnesses, oath, date, month, and year. No index. 4 x 4 x 10. Clerk's off.

Licenses(continued)

Professional

53. RECORD OF PHYSICIANS' LICENSE, 1884--. 2 vols. (1-1). Record of physicians' licenses issued, showing name of physician, date of license, name of school attended; board of medical registration and examination, showing name, address, date, county statement, age, birthplace, license no., date of oath, date of diploma, name of college attended, memoranda, and clerk's signature. Indexed alph. by applicant's name. Hdw. on printed form. 460 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's vt.

54. PHYSICIAN'S REGISTER (ACCOUCHEURS), 1881-1924. 1 vol. Record of physicians and accoucheurs, showing names of physicians, address, date of registry, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of physician. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 x 9 x 1. Clerk's vt.

55. RECORD OF DENTISTS' CERTIFICATES, CIRCUIT COURT, 1899--. 1 vol. Record of dentists' certificates, showing name of dentist, date of license, statement, date of oath, and clerk's signature. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on printed form. 160 pp. 18 x 12 x 1. Clerk's vt.

56. OPTOMETRY RECORD, 1907-09. 1 vol. Record of certified optometrists, showing registration and examination, name of applicant, county, witness, date of certificate, signatures of president and secretary of State board of registration and examination. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on printed form. 236 pp. 14 x 9 x 1. Clerk's vt.

57. REGISTER OF TRAINED NURSES, 1906--. 1 vol. Record of trained nurses, showing name of nurse, date of registration, address, date of license, and remarks. Indexed alph. by name of nurse. Hdw. on printed form. 78 pp. 10 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Clerk's vt.

Licenses(continued)

Business

58. POULTRY DEALER'S LICENSE, 1917--. 1 vol.
Record of poultry dealer's licenses, showing name of applicant, date issued, location of business, town, county, State, date of expiration of license, and clerk's signature. Indexed alph. by applicant's name. Hdw. on printed form. 319 pp. 16 x 11 x 2. Clerk's vt.

59. JUNK DEALER'S RECORD, 1905--. 1 vol.
Record of applications for junk dealer's license, showing name of applicant, date of license, year, county, city, town, State, location of business, oath, signatures of applicant and clerk. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 9 x 1. Clerk's vt.

60. APPLICATIONS FOR SIRES LICENSE, 1 vol., 1889-1913. Re
Record of applications to obtain license for breeding of improved stock, showing name of sire, date of birth, description, date of license, and owner's name. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Basement "bum" rm.

Certificates

61. CERTIFICATE OF PARTNERSHIP NAMES, 1923--. 1 vol.
Record of partnerships and change of ownership, showing name of firm, city, State, section no., date, signature of clerk. Indexed alph. by name of partnership. Typed. 350 pp. 14 x 12 x 2. Clerk's off.

62. REGISTER OF INSURANCE CERTIFICATES, 1875-1920. 1 vol.
Record of insurance ceritifcates, showing name of agent, name of insurance co., date when filed, and remarks. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's vt.

Certificates(continued)

63. PATENT RIGHT RECORD, 1870-1909. 1 vol.

Record of applications for patent rights, showing dates of issuance, to whom issued, names of articles to be patented, description, no., State, county, applicant's age, address, occupation, oath, month, year, name of agent, and clerk's signature. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on printed form. 400 pp. 16 x 10 x 2½. Basement "bum" rm.

64. ESTRAY RECORD, 1873-1906. 1 vol. (2). Vol. 1, prior to 1873, missing.

Record of estrayed live stock, showing appraised value, description, names of persons finding animals, where found, date, height, and clerk's signature. Index. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 10 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

Soldier Registrations
(See also entries 28, 162-163)

65. (ARMY RECORD, FIRST CALL), July 30-Oct. 6, 1917. 1 vol.

Variation, Register of Daily Receipts-Treasurer.

Record of meetings of registration board, showing proceedings to determine men qualified to serve in army, date and time meetings held, name, address, and serial no. of men who qualified. Arr. chron. Typed. 150 pp. 18 x 13 x 1. Clerk's vt.

65a. (ARMY REGISTER) INTEREST COLLECTED, 1917-18. Same as entry 249.

Record of army registration board, showing proceedings of meetings, action taken on service cases, exemption claims and classification; contains pictures of service men and camp activities. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 11 x 1½. Recorder's vt.

Fee and Cash Records

66. CLERK'S DAILY BALANCE AND CASH STATEMENT, 1921-22. 1 vol.
Record of daily and cash balances, showing clerk's cost due county, fees payable to county, fish and game licenses, trust funds, deposits, date of balance, totals, name of depository, depository balance at beginning of day, deposits during day, total balance and deposits, checks issued during day, depository balance at finish of day, total cash in drawer and in depository, and balance on hand at close of day. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 10 x 8 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

67. REGISTER OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1894-1912. 3 vols. (1-3).
Record of cash receipts and disbursements, showing witness fees, sheriff's fees, clerk's fees, date, name of party, reference, general trust, witness and registered fees, fines, docket, and jury fees, aggregate, and totals. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

68. QUARTERLY REPORTS, 1920--. 1 file box.
Clerk's report to auditor of fees collected, showing name of clerk, on account court costs, marriage licenses, State docket fees, total amount collected, oath, date of signature, and auditor's name. No index. 9 x 4 x 13. Clerk's vt.

Maps

69. MAP OF BENTON COUNTY, INDIANA, 1926. 1 map.
Political communications map of Benton County, showing divisions of twps., railroads, brief historical data, area of county, and population. Drawn by Don Hoaton, Surveyor. Published in Benton County, by Towler. Black and white. Scale not given. 48 x 48. Clerk's off.

The circuit court is authorized by the Indiana Constitution (Indiana Const., Art. 7, Sec. 11). The seventy-sixth circuit comprises Benton county. The inception date of this court in Benton county is 1840. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The judge of the circuit court is elected by the people and the term of office is six years. The court has jurisdiction of law, equity, criminal cases, and settlement of decedent's estates, and of guardianships. It has appellate jurisdiction in certain cases from justice of peace courts. (Acts 1881; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 4-303.)

Change of Venue

70. CHANGE OF VENUE RECORD, 1894--. 2 vols.
Record of cases venued to adjoining counties and cost of trial before being venued, showing parties, term of court, date filed, expense of jury, sheriff, bailiff, page reference to order book, and date disposed. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

Civil and Criminal Causes

71. (CIVIL CASES,) 1923--. 12 file boxes; 18 drawers.
Record of cases pending in court but not come to trial. No index. Boxes, 12 x 9 x 4; drawers, 12 x 8 x 1½. Clerk's off.

Civil and Criminal Causes(continued)

72. (CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES), 1892--. 190 boxes. (342-518).
Record of civil and criminal cases, showing State, county, term, parties, date, and notary public. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. 10 x 5 x 12. Clerk's vt.

73. GENERAL INDEX- BENTON COUNTY, 1840-84. 2 vols. (1-2).
General index to circuit court cases, showing defendant, plaintiff, order book no., page, date, judgment, order books, dockets, fee book, and cause no. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on printed form. Condition fair. 500 pp. 18 x 16 x 3. Clerk's vt.

74. INDICTMENT RECORDS, 1872-97. 3 vols. (2-4). 1 vol., prior to 1872, missing.
Record of indictments, showing jurors, defendant, cause, no., court, date, attorneys, witnesses, proceedings, and clerk. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

75. RECOGNIZANCE BOND RECORD, 1874--. 2 vols. (1-1). 1892-1905, missing.
Record of bonds posted to insure appearance of defendant in court, showing date, bond, amount, charge, defendant, sureties, and signature of sheriff. Indexed alph. by defendant. Hdw. on printed form. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. 1 vol., 1874-92, basement stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1905--, clerk's vt.

76. RECEIVERSHIP RECORD, 1920-26. 1 vol.
Record of receivership cases, showing inventory of property, claims against firm, name of claimant, date of filing, and attorney's name. No index. Typed. 334 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's vt.

Civil and Criminal Causes(continued)

77. ASSIGNMENT RECORDS, 1875-98. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of assignments of property to satisfy debts, showing State, county, date, property debt, amount, and parties. Indexed alph. by names of assignor and assignee. Hdw. Condition fair. 560 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

78. INSANE RECORD, 1881--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of affidavits for insanity inquests, showing date, name, statement of physician, and sheriff's return. Indexed alph. by name of patient. Hdw. on printed form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off. vt.

79. INSANITY PAPERS, 1916--. 1 file box.

Record of insanity, showing name, fees, amount, State, county, oath, date, and clerk. No index. 9½ x 4 3/4 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

80. RECORD OF COURT AND INSANITY ALLOWANCES, 1905-22. 1 vol.

Record of services, and allowances rendered, showing jurys, sheriff, bailiff, fees, commitment record, name, term of court, service, date of allowance, amount, date paid and name of insane person. No index. Typed. 264 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Basement stg. rm.

81. RILEY HOSPITAL RECORD, 1928-32. 1 vol.

Record of applications, showing physician's report, applicant, date of admission, illness, age, sex, race, parent or guardian, date discharged, judge, and clerk. Indexed alph. by names of applicant. Hdw. on printed form. 420 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

82. RECORD OF EPILEPTICS, 1910-30. 1 vol.

Record of applications for commitment, showing name, history, physician's

certificate, and order of admission. No index. Typed on printed form. 336 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Clerk's off. vt.

83. NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1862-1929. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of petitions and affidavits for naturalization, showing name, birth place, age, oath of allegiance, declaration of intention, date, and seal. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on printed form. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's off. vt.

Court Proceedings
(See also entries 115-125, 134-135)

84. ENTRY ISSUE DOCKET AND FEE BOOK- CIVIL CASES, 1916--. 16 vols. (1-16).

Record of court cases, showing plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, action, judgment, cost, amount, cause no., date, order book, page, dockets and fees. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on printed form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off. vt.

85. ENTRY ISSUE DOCKET AND FEE BOOK- CRIMINAL CASES, 1915--. 17 vols. (1-17).

Record of criminal cases, showing docket, cause no., date filed, action, prosecutor, litigants, attorneys, judgment, amount, writs issued, fees, and total cost. Indexed alph. by name of defendant and by cause no. Hdw. on printed form. 325 pp. 18 x 12½ x 2. Clerk's off. vt,

Civil and Criminal--Court Proceedings(continued)

86. ENTRY DOCKET, 1839-1916. 8 vols. (1-8).

Record of court cases, showing plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, action, date filed, judgment, and remarks. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. 400 pp. 14 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off. vt.

For later records, see entry 85.

87. ISSUE DOCKET, 1873-92. 8 vols. (3, 5-11). 3 vols. (1-2, 4), missing.

Record of court cases, showing plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, action, date filed, sheriff's return, and court proceedings. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

88. BAR DOCKET, 1857-83. 2 vols. (2-3). 1 vol. Prior to 1857, missing.

Record of court cases, showing page, attorneys, action, litigants, and proceedings. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Basement stg. rm.

89. BENCH DOCKET, 1853-1909. 42 vols. (1-42).

Record of circuit court cases, showing parties, crime, action, judgment, attorneys, court proceeding, and disposition. Indexed alph. by title of cause. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 7 vols., 1853-1904, basement stg. rm.; 35 vols., 1864-1909, clerk's off. vt.

90. ORDER BOOK, 1839--. 66 vols. (B, 2-65).

Record of appointments approved by court, showing date, judicial day, judge, sheriff, prosecutor, proceedings, cause no., parties, and date of trial. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. 1839-1901, hdw., 1901--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

Civil and Criminal-- Court Proceedings(continued)

91. ORDER BOOK- MISCELLANEOUS, 1898--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of appointments and allowances made by circuit court, showing jurors, term of court, appointments, oaths of county officials, official seal, and judge. Indexed alph. by name of ward. 1898-1900, hdw. 1900--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

92. DITCH ORDER BOOK, 1881--. 10 vols. (1-10).

Record of ditches, showing petitions, specifications, location, and court proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of ditch. 1881-1901, hdw.; 1901--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 4. Clerk's off. vt.

93. DOCKET SHEETS, 1905--. 10 vols.

Record of actions, showing plaintiff, defendant, action, date filed, attorneys, order book, page, and minutes of court. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 600 pp. 14 x 12 x4. Clerk's off. vt.

94. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1840--. 14 vols. (1-12, A, and 1 vol., not numbered).

Record of judgments in court, showing date, judgment, amount, order book, page, fee book, dockets, and receipts of satisfaction. Indexed alph. by plaintiff. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

95. COMPLETE RECORD, 1839-1922. 17 vols. (2-17, 2 vols. numbered 4). 1879-1890, missing.

Record of all cases, showing date, term, defendant, attorney, nature of case, oath, decision of court, and judge. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. 1839-94, hdw.; 1894-1922, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

Civil and Criminal(continued)

Executions
(See also entries 173-175).

96. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1851--. 19 vols. (A,B, 1-17).
Record of executions, showing plaintiff, defendant, interest, amount, judgments, date of issue, writ, and cause no. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on printed form. 575 pp. 15 x 10 x4. Clerk's off. vt.

97. PRAECIPE RECORD, 1874--. 2 vols. 1877-1906, missing.
Record of orders of attorneys to the clerk to furnish transcripts of legal papers relating to cases, showing parties, attorneys, execution notice by clerk, date filed and completed. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 250 pp. 16 x 10 x 1½. 1 vol., 1874-77, basement stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1906--, clerk's off. vt.

98. EXECUTIONS, 1924-31. 3 boxes.
Record of executions, showing date, judgment, interest, fees, attorneys, plaintiff, and costs. No index. 4 x 4 x 10. Clerk's off.

99. EXECUTIONS-(FEE BILL,) 1927--. 5 file boxes.
Record of fees and cases, showing party, fees, amount, and sheriff's return. Arr. chron. 10 x 4 x 6. Clerk's off.

100. LIS PENDENS, 1877--. 5 vols. (1,1,3-4, 4).
Record of property held pending outcome of lawsuit in court, showing date, parties, property, complaint, satisfaction, and amount involved. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on printed form. Condition fair. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off. vt.

Civil and Criminal --Executions(continued)

101. SUPPORT DOCKET, 1922--. 1 vol.

Record of support money received and paid out by clerk, showing date, cause no., plaintiff, defendant, amount, and date received. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

Probate Causes

102. (PROBATE CASES,)1840-1934. 251 boxes, (1-227, 24 not numbered).

Record of court cases, showing name, witnesses, oath, date, clerk and notice of all terms. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. 10 x 5 x 12. Clerk's off. vt.

103. GUARDIANSHIP, 1883-1933. 9 file drawers. Numbering varies.

Record of guardianships, showing date, guardian, ward, balance, and total balances. Indexed alph. by name of guardian. 11 x 15 x 24. Clerk's off. vt.

104. MISCELLANEOUS COURT CASES, 1906--. 30 boxes.

Record of miscellaneous court cases pending, including naturalization, jury venire,and guardianship. ~~cases.~~ No index. 18 x 12 x 24. Clerk's off.

105. WILL RECORD, 1857--. 6 vols. (1-6).

Record of wills, showing decedent, heirs, executor, date, witnesses, description and value of legacy. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. 1857-1901, hdw.; 1901--, typed. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Clerk's off. vt.

Probate Causes(continued)

106. CLERK'S REPORT OF WILLS PROBATED, 1884. 1 vol.
Record of wills reported probated, showing deceased, county, State, date, oath, and clerk. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on printed form. Condition poor. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Basement stg. rm.

107. LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1900--. 1 vol.
Record of letters administration, showing date, deceased, heirs, clerk, witnesses, administrator, amount, and condition of bond. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. 584 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

108-109. RECORD LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIPS, 1852--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Record of letters of administration, appointment of guardianship, and letters of guardianship, showing State, county, clerk, administrator, guardian, and testimony. Indexed alph. by name of guardian. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

110. RECORD OF ADMINISTRATOR, EXECUTOR, AND GUARDIAN BONDS, 1852-98. 1 vol.
Record of bonds given, showing date, assignee, assignor, clerk, bond, amount, and obligation of bond. Indexed alph. by name of officer. Hdw. Condition fair. 538 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

111. ADMINISTRATORS', EXECUTORS', AND GUARDIANS' BONDS TO SELL REAL ESTATE, 1875-86. 1 vol.
Record of bonds to sell real estate, showing parties, oath, administrator, witness, clerk, amount, and obligation of bond. Indexed alph. by name of administrator. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off. vt.

Probate Causes(continued)

112. INVENTORY RECORD, 1839--. 7 vols. (A, 2-7).

Record of inventory of property for court settlement, showing date, and list of property. Indexed alph. by title of inventory. 1839-1900, hdw.; 1900--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

113. SALE BILL RECORD, 1882-1925. 1 vol. (2). Vol. 1, prior to 1882, and 1901-14, missing.

Record of sale at auction by administrator or executor of estate, showing estate, date, executor or administrator, itemized list of articles sold, cash paid, and purchaser. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. 1882-1900, hdw.; 1915-25, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

114. PARTITION RECORD, 1838-91. 2 vols.

Record of partition of real estate, showing petition, evidence, and judgment. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

Proceedings in Probate Causes
(See also entries, 84-95, 124-125, 134-135).

115. ESTATE ENTRY, CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET, 1878--. 7 vols. (1-7).

Record of claims allowed against estates, showing date, amount, administrator or executor, claim no., claimant, bond, amount, date satisfied, fees, and action taken. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on printed form. 289 pp. 18 x 12 x 4. Clerk's off. vt.

116. ADMINISTRATION DOCKET- ENTRY CLAIM AND ALLOWANCES, 1901-23. 5 vols. (4-8). Prior to 1901, missing.

Record of administration, showing deceased, date of death, estate,

executor or administrator, bond, amount, sureties, claim no., claimant, date filed, and allowance. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. 450 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Clerk's off. vt.

117. ADMINISTRATOR'S DOCKET, 1876-94. 1 vol.

Record of administration of estate, showing deceased, administrator, date of death, bond, penalty, sureties, inventory, sale bill, fee book, page no., order book, and proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on printed form. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3 1/8. Basement stg. rm.

118. GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET AND FEE BOOK, 1903--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of guardianship, showing ward, age, bond, amount, sureties, inventory, appraisement, fees, clerk's receipts, and court proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of ward. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

119. GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1847-1926. 8 vols. (1-6, 2 vols. not numbered).

Record of guardians, showing date of letters, guardian, wards, sureties, settlement, proceedings, and penalty of bond. Indexed alph. by name of guardian. Hdw. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Clerk's off. vt.

120. CURRENT DOCKET, 1919--. 1 vol.

Record of current estates, showing sureties, action, attorney, date filed, and disposed, decedent, executor or administrator, order book, page no., estate, value, notices issued, and petitions. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 12 x 14 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

Probate Causes(continued)

121. APPEARANCE DOCKET- PROBATE, 1875-1902. 2 vols. (2 and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of appearance before court by administrator for settlement of estates, showing administrator, proceedings, date, receipts, claims, and attorney. Indexed alph. by name of administrator. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3½. Basement stg. rm.

122. ORDER BOOK- PROBATE CASES, 1840--. 28 vols. (A, 1-27).

Record of probate cases, showing orders, complete record, date, judge, clerk, administrator, deceased, estate, amount, appraiser, heirs, exemption rate, guardian, tax, debts, claims, expenses, and proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of wards. 1853-1901, hdw. 1901--, typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

123. COMPLETE RECORD- PROBATE, 1850-91. 3 vols.

Record of all cases, showing date, term, defendant, attorney, nature of case, inventory, deceased, itemized list of personal property, and sale bill. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

For later records, see entry 122.

Proceedings in Juvenile Causes
(See also entries 84-95, 115-123, 134-135)

124. JUVENILE COURT DOCKET, 1910-27. 1 vol.

Record of juvenile cases, showing defendant, attorneys, proceedings, witnesses, judgment, prosecuting attorney, and case no. No index. Hdw. Condition fair. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

Proceedings in Juvenile Causes(continued)

125. ORDER BOOK- JUVENILE CASES, 1910--. 1 vol.
Record of juvenile court proceedings, showing date, case no., defendant, summons, warrant, petition, minor, parents, probation officer, sheriff, clerk, attorney, and judge. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

Fee and Cash Records

126. CASH BOOK OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1923--. 3 vols. (1-2, and 1 vol. not numbered).
Record of cash receipts and disbursements, showing date, receipt no., page no., cause no., from whom, to whom, what account, total cash, marriage license fees, fish and game licenses, support, trust funds, and total disbursements. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 18 x 4. Clerk's off. vt.

127. REGISTER OF FEES AND FUNDS HELD IN TRUST, 1914-30. 2 vols.
Record of fees and funds, showing date received, for whom, cause, plaintiff, defendant, cause no., record, kind, page no., cash book, date disbursed, and amount. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on printed form. 398 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's off. vt.

128. RECORD OF FINES AND FORFEITURES, 1911-20. 1 vol.
Record of fines and forfeitures, showing from whom, date collected, docket page no., amount, and date paid. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Basement stg. rm.

Fee and Cash Records(continued)

129. REGISTER OF FEES, BENTON CIRCUIT COURT, 1874-1914. 4 vols. (1-3, 5). Vol. 4, 1900-05, missing.

Record of fees paid to circuit court, showing name of payee, cause, dates of payments, fee book and page no., amount, when paid in, and when paid out. Arr. alph. by name of payee. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

130. FEE BOOK, BENTON CIRCUIT COURT, 1852-1915. 19 vols. (1-19). Record of fees charged in court cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, and amount of fees charged. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

131. FEE BOOK, STATE, BENTON CIRCUIT COURT, 1887-1902. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of fees paid in State cases, showing date, amount of fees due, amount of fines, date paid, cause no., name of defendant, oath, witnesses, date filed, fees paid, names of sheriff, justice of peace, and clerk. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

132. WITNESS REGISTER, 1862-98. 3 vols. (2-4). Vol. 1, prior to 1862, missing.

Record of witnesses in court cases, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and witness, fees, no. of days attendance, no. of miles traveled and expense, fee book and page no., and remarks. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

Fee and Cash Records(continued)

133. JUROR'S REGISTER, 1884-1925, 2 vols. (2, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of persons serving as jurors, showing date of service, no. of days served, miles traveled, and amount of salary paid. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Basement "bum" rm.

The common pleas court was established by an act of 1852. (Acts 1852.) The judges were elected at regular elections for terms of four years. The inception date of this court in Benton County is 1853. Because of the inadequacies of this court, it was abolished by an act of 1873. The jurisdiction was transferred to the circuit court. (Acts 1873, Chap. 29, p. 37.) All records are in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The common pleas court had jurisdiction in matters relating to probate of wills; appointment of guardians of persons of unsound mind, and other legal disabilities; on matters relating to executors and administrators; civil matters from fifty to one thousand dollars except cases of slander, libel, breach of marriage contract, action of official bond, or where the title of real estate shall be in issue; and criminal jurisdiction in cases which are not felonies and which are not triable by a justice of the peace. (Acts 1852.)

Proceedings in Civil and Criminal Causes
(See also entries 84-95, 115-125)

134. BAR DOCKET, 1859-73. 3 vols.

Judge's calendar of cases, showing case no., names of plaintiff and defendant, names of attorneys, kind of action, when filed, sheriff's return, pleadings, witnesses for plaintiff and defendant, and proceedings. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

135. PARTITION RECORD, 1852-73. 1 vol.

Record of partition suits filed and heard in court, showing location of land, legal description and plat, names of commissioners, and fees charged. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

136. FEE BOOK, 1853-73. 3 vols. (A-B, 3).

Record of all fees charged in court, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, amount, clerk's fees, jury fees, witness fees, sheriffs'fees, oath, and clerk's signature. Arr. numerically by case no. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

VI RECORDER

The recorder is a constitutional officer elected for a four-year term. He is nominated in the primary and elected in the regular election, and is not eligible to hold office for more than eight years in any twelve-year period (Indiana Const., art. 6, sec. 2; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1901; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 49-3201).

The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All records are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The title of this officer describes his functions; to make and preserve a public record of legal documents for private persons as required. Of the many kinds of documents recorded, the more important are deeds, mortgages and releases, leases and cancelations, liens, assignments, articles of incorporation, and certificates of admission for foreign corporations to do business in Indiana. There are also records of cemetery deeds, cemetery associations, farm names, chattel mortgages, and miscellaneous instruments. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1855, 1875 special session, 1905, 1913, 1919, 1925, 1927, and 1931; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 49-3203 to 49-3235.)

Deeds, Titles and Grants

137. DEED RECORD, 1840--. 59 vols. (1-59).
Record of warranty deeds, quiet claim deeds, and sheriff's deeds to real estate. Indexed alph. by names of grantor and grantee. 1840-1906, hdw.; 1906--, typed. 565 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recorder's record vt.

Deeds, Titles and Grants(continued)

138. GENERAL INDEX TO DEEDS, not dated. 8 vols. (1-8).
Index to deed record, showing names of grantor and grantee, description of land, book and page nos., sec., town, and range. Arr. alph. by name of grantor. Hdw. 550 pp. 20 x 13 x 3. Recorder's off.

139. CEMETERY RECORD, 1924--. 1 vol.
Record of deeds to lots in cemeteries, showing name of purchaser, amount paid, and name of grantee. Indexed alph. by name of purchaser. Typed. 640 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recorder's vt.

140. (WARRANTY DEEDS), 1860-99. 52 file boxes. (A-Z).
Warranty deeds, showing day, month, year, names of parties, county, State, convey and warrant, name of party, amount for real estate, witness, oath, signatures of recorder and justice of peace. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Recorder's record rm.

141. QUIET TITLE RECORD, 1911--. 1 vol.
Record of cases tried, to quiet title to real estate, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, description of property, name of estate, order book and page nos., date of judgment, commissioner's name, directions, sec., range, acres, amounts, cause, and execution of deeds, and quiet titles, recorder's name, date, and notary seal. For index, see entry 142. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recorder's off.

142. INDEX TO QUIET TITLE RECORD, 1911--. 1 vol.
Index to quiet title record, showing dates, names of parties, book and page nos., date of filing transcript, date of decree, date of record, name of town, description of lots, block sec., twp., range, and acres. Arr. alph. by name of parties. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Recorder's off.

143. PATENTS, SWAMP LANDS, 1850-78. 1 vol.

Plats of swamp lands, showing twp. and range nos., and copy of record granting land to State, by U. S. No index. Hdw. 25 pp. 18 x 11 x ½. Recorder's vt.

Mortgages and Releases

Real Estate

144. MORTGAGE RECORD, 1839--. 64 vols. (1-63, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of mortgages covering real estate, showing date, terms, amount involved, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, sec., town, range, book and page nos. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. 1839-1902, hdw.; 1902--, typed. 584 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 1 vol., 1839-51, attic "bum" rm.; 63 vols., 1852--, recorder's vt.

145. GENERAL INDEX TO MORTGAGES, 1840--. 8 vols. (1-6, 1,5).

Index to mortgages, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of real estate, book and page nos. Arr. alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. Hdw. 757 pp. 20 x 14 x 2. 1 vol., recorder's vt.; 7 vols., recorder's off.

Chattels

146. CHATTEL MORTGAGE MINUTE BOOK, 1935--. 1 vol.

Record of chattel mortgages, showing no., of instrument, time and date of filing, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date of instrument, month, year,

day, amount secured, date due, kind of property mortgaged, and remarks. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. Hdw. 598 pp. 19 x 13 x 3. Recorder's off.

147. (CHATTEL MORTGAGES), 1935--. 1 file box.
Chattel mortgage papers, showing names of mortgagor, and mortgagee, description of property mortgaged, and amount involved. Arr. alph. by name of mortgagor. 4 x 19 x 27. Recorder's vt.

148. CHATTEL MORTGAGE RECORD, 1877--. 41 vols. (A-Z, 1-15).
Record of all chattel mortgages, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, amount involved, description of property mortgaged, date, appraisement, amount of interest, attorney's fees, county, State, town, and twps. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. 1877-1902, hdw.; 1902--, typed. 584 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recorder's vt.

149. CHATTEL MORTGAGE INDEX, 1905--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Index to chattel mortgages, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of property, date, book, and page nos. Arr. alph. by name of mortgagor. Hdw. 500 pp. 21 x 15 x 3. Recorder's off.

150. (CHATTEL MORTGAGES), 1875-85. 24 file boxes. (A-Z).
Chattel mortgages, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, twp., county, State, amount, to whom paid, name of party, provided always, oath, and name of notary. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Recorder's record rm.

Trust Funds

151. TRUST FUND MORTGAGE RECORD, 1860--. 6 vols. (1-6).
Record of mortgages taken through trust fund, showing names of mortgagor

and mortgagee, amount involved, description of property mortgaged, State, county, range, oath, date recorded, and notary seal. Indexed alph. by name of mortgagor. 1860-1901, hdw.; 1901--, typed. 500 pp. 17 x 12 x 3. Recorder's vt.

Releases

152. (RELEASES), 1934--. 1 file box.
Warehouse receipts and releases, showing government loans made on corn, showing name of person getting loan, location, and amount of loan. For index, see entry 149. 4 x 19 x 27. Recorder's vt.

Liens

153. MECHANIC'S LIENS, 1857-91. 1 vol.
Record of mechanic's liens taken on real estate and property, showing State, county, twp., ~~lien is held for labor~~, amount, amount of materials used, amount of lien, date, time, month, year, and recorder's name. Indexed alph. by name of person filing lien. Hdw. 430 pp. 15 x 11 x 2. Recorder's vt.

154. SIRE LIEN RECORD, 1892-1933. 1 vol.
Record of liens taken to secure payment for sire services, showing name and address of owner of sire, and dam, amount of lien, name of dam and of sire, date of service, oath, and signatures of owner of sire and recorder. Indexed alph. by name of owner of sire. Typed. 320 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Recorder's vt.

Liens(continued)

155. RECORD OF DITCH LIENS, 1883-1931. 1 vol.

Record of liens taken on real estate, benefited by ditches, to secure payment for construction, showing land owner's name, description of land benefited, amount, directions, sec., twp., range, court proceedings on ditches, and remarks. Indexed alph. by name of owner benefited. 1883-1901, hdw.; 1902-31, typed. 428 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Recorder's vt.

Register of Legal Instruments

156. ENTRY BOOK, ENTRY AND FEE BOOK, 1839--. 11 vols. (1-10, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of all instruments handled by recorder, showing kind of instrument, time and date received, fee charged, names of grantee and grantor, deeds, mortgages, releases, chattels, contracts, amount of fees, date fees paid, lots, squares, outlots, description, sec., town, range, consideration, amount, book and page nos., to whom paper given. Arr. chron. Hdw. 550 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. Recorder's vt.

157. TRANSFER TAX RECORD, 1914--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of receipts on inheritance tax, or transfer tax due State, showing amount, description of property, administrator's name, duplicate inheritance tax, receipt no., fee charged, name of deceased, amount of inheritance, tax due State, description of land, amount of tax, date recorded, treasurer's and recorder's names. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recorder's vt.

158. POWER OF ATTORNEY, 1869--. 3 vols. (1-3).
Record of power of attorney, showing name of person granting power of attorney, name of person assuming power of attorney, State, county, date of oath, and name of notary public. Indexed alph. by name of person granting power. 1869-1901, hdw.; 1902--, typed. 344 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. Recorder's vt.

159. INDENTURES OF APPRENTICESHIP, 1880-1920. 1 vol.
Record of indentures of apprenticeship, showing names of guardians and apprentices, terms of contract, agreement made by person taking apprentice, seal, oath, sworn to before justice of peace, county, date recorded, and signature of parties. Indexed alph. by name of guardian. 1880-1901, hdw.; 1901-20, typed. 465 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Recorder's vt.

160. FARM REGISTER, 1913-31. 1 vol.
Register of farm names, showing name of farm, owner's name, description of land, location, sec., no., range and twp., nos., oath, witness, seal, and name of clerk. Indexed alph. by name of farm. Typed. 584 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recorder's vt.

161. MARKS AND BRANDS, 1865-70. 1 vol.
Record of marks and brands for live stock, showing description of mark or brand used, names of owners, kind of animals, what ear marked, date recorded, twp., State, county, and recorder's name. No index. Hdw. Condition fair. 400 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. Recorder's vt.

162. SOLDIERS' DISCHARGE RECORD, 1918--. 1 vol.
Record of discharged soldiers and sailors, showing rating, type of service,

Register of Legal Instruments(continued)

character, date discharged, name, name of city enlisted, physical condition when discharged, married or single, signature of recorder, and remarks. Indexed alph. by name of soldier or sailor. 1919-35, typed; 1935--, hdw. on printed form. 580 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recorder's vt.

See also entries 28, 65-65a, 163.

163. ARMY RECORD, Aug. 1, 1917- Oct. 9, 1917. 1 vol. (2).
Record of men drafted for service in U. S. army, showing serial no., order no., physical examination, claim for exemption, date, name of male, town, twp., county, State, cause, no., returnable date, notice of acceptance, date, date of sailing, camp, name of company and regiment ; enlisted men, showing names, and branch of service in which they enlisted. Arr. chron. Hdw. and typed. Condition fair. 186 pp. 17 x 16 x 1½. Recorder's vt.

See also entries 28, 65-65a, 162.

164. DRAINAGE RECORD, 1889-1911. 2 vols. (1-2).
Record of public drains, showing description of land benefited and assessed, name of owner of land, description of drain, specifications, sec., date filed, notes, and remarks. Indexed alph. by name of drain. Hdw. 210 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Recorder's vt.

Miscellaneous Records

165. MISCELLANEOUS RECORD, 1858--. 12 vols. (2-12, 2 vols. numbered 6). Vol. 1, prior to 1858, missing.
Record of real estate contracts, mechanics liens, affidavits, bills of sale, and articles of incorporation, showing value received, name of party, county, State, oath, date of execution, and signatures of parties.

Indexed alph. by name of persons involved. 1858-1902, hdw.; 1902--, typed. 440 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. Recorder's vt.

166. MISCELLANEOUS RECORD (INDEX), not dated. 1 vol.

Index to miscellaneous record, showing name, book, and page nos., that instrument is recorded. Arr. alph. by name of person making instrument. Hdw. 25 pp. 16 x 10 x ½. Recorder's vt.

Fee and Cash Books

167. CASH BOOK, FEE AND CASH BOOK, 1900--. 6 vols. (2-7). Vol. 1, prior to 1900, missing.

Record of fees charged and cash received for recording instruments, deeds, mortgages, liens,and releases, showing date, page no., from whom received, certificates and acknowledgments, town plats, total receipts, disbursements, page, and totals. Arr. chron. Hdw. 320 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 5 vols., recorder's vt.; 1 vol., recorder's off.

Maps and Plats

168. TRACT BOOK, 1832-75. 1 vol.

Record of government lands, showing description of land, twp., range no., plats, date, name of purchaser, parts of sec., and remarks. Arr. numerically by range no. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 14 x 2. Recorder's vt.

169. FIELD NOTES, 1836-58. 1 vol.

Record of government lands from first sale, showing date, name of purchaser, sec., town, range, and no., of acres. Arr. numerically by range no. Hdw. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Recorder's vt.

170. FIELD NOTES, 1849-57. 1 vol.

Transcripts of field notes, in register's office at Crawfordsville, showing description of land, prairie, timberland, wet or dry, twp., range, and sec. nos., posts, bearing trees, dimensions, courses they bear, districts, and quality of soil; original land plats, showing twp., sec. and range nos. No index. Hdw. 275 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Recorder's vt.

171. MAPS OF COUNTY, TOWNSHIPS, AND TOWNS IN BENTON COUNTY, 1909. 100 maps.

Political maps of county, twps., and towns, showing photographs of prominent families, and other information. Published by George A. Ogle & Co. Printed and colored. Scale varies. 18 x 15 x 1. Recorder's vt.

172. MAP OF BENTON COUNTY, 1926. 1 map.

Political map of Benton County, showing twps., locations of farms, and owners of farms. Drawn by Don. Heaton. Published at Fowler, Ind. Black and white. Scale; 1" to 2 miles. 53 x 50. Recorder's off.

172a. TOWN OF FOWLER, not dated. 1 map.

Political and communications map of the town of Fowler, showing streets, lots, location of each lot and street. Drawn by Ray Jones. Published at Fowler, Ind. Blueprint. Scale not given. 51 x 47. Recorder's off.

VII SHERIFF

The sheriff is a constitutional officer chosen for a four-year period and is not eligible to hold office more than four years in any period of six years. He is a political officer, nominated by primary and elected in the regular election. He must give bond for five thousand dollars. (2 Indiana Rev. Stat. 1852; Sec. 49-2801, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.) The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The sheriff arrests without process all persons who, within his view, commit any crime or misdemeanor, delivers them before a justice of the peace of Benton County and holds them in his custody until the cause of such arrest has been investigated; pursues and commits to jail all felons; and executes all process directed to him by legal authority. It is also his duty to protect persons in danger from mobs and possible lynchings. (2 Indiana Rev. Stat., 1852; Sec. 49-2802 to 49-2808, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.)

Executions and Reports
(See also entries 96-101)

173. REGISTER OF FROEIGN WRITS, 1905--. 2 vols. (2, and 1 vol. not numbered). 1909-24, missing.

Record of sheriff's executions from other counties, showing nature of writ, names of plaintiff and defendant, when received, when served, and costs. Indexed alph. by plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on printed form.

250 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1905-09, basement "bum" rm.; 1 vol., 1924--, sheriff's off.

174. (CERTIFICATES OF SALES), 1925--. 6 bundles.

Certificates of sales, showing State, county, amount of judgment, amount of costs, name of party or parties, cause no., whom action is against, description of land, date and by whom served, and sheriff's signature. No index. 4 x 6 x 6. Sheriff's off.

175. JAIL REGISTER, 1896--. 2 vols.

Record of person committed to jail for misdemeanors, showing names, age, color, address, birthplace, charge, date of sentence, when discharged, name of county, and Stat. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1 vol., 1896-1916, basement "bum" rm.; 1 vol., 1917--, sheriff's off.

Fee and Cash Books

176. CASH BOOK, 1913--. 1 vol.

Record of cash received and disbursed, showing nature of service, quietus, fees due county, date, year, cause no., book and page nos., name of court, receipt and check nos., from whom received, to whom paid, individual and trust funds, distribution of disbursements, and remarks. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Sheriff's off.

177. FEE BOOK, 1900-- 3 vols. (2-3, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Vol. 1, prior to 1900, missing.

Record of fees charged for execution of writs, showing title or nature of cause, date and nature of service, amount of fee taxed, State, and sheriff's signature. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. 1000 pp. 18 x 12 x 3½. 2 vols., 1900-23, basement "bum" rm.; 1 vol., 1924--, sheriff's off.

178. BENTON COUNTY, 1926. 1 map.

Political and comminications map of Benton County, showing railroads, roads, division of twps., and a brief outline of historical data. Drawn by Don. Heaton. Published in Benton County. Black and white. Scale not given. 60 x 60. Sheriff's off.

VIII CORONER

The coronor is a constitutional officer, elected for two years, without restriction on re-election. He is required to post a five thousand dollar bond to insure the faithful performance of his duties. The office of coroner was in existence before 1851 by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (Indiana Const., 1816, art. 6, sec. 25; Acts 1816, ch. 13, sec. 1; Indiana Const., 1851, art. 6, sec. 2.)

The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All records are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The coronor is required to investigate deaths by violence, by accident, and by suspicious means, and to determine the cause and manner of death. He holds inquests without a jury and may subpena witnesses and employ a physician to make a postmortem examination, filing his report and verdict with the clerk of the circuit court. He is a peace officer with the same powers as the sheriff, and acts as sheriff in cases of absence, vacancy, interest, or incapacity, and serves warrants on the sheriff if necessary. (2 Indiana Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1871, 1879 Special Session, and 1933; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 49-2901 to 49-2914.)

179. RECORD OF CORONER'S INQUEST, 1895--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Record of inquests, showing testimony of witnesses, cause of death, verdict, statement of expense, witness and constable fees, signatures of clerk and coroner. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Clerk's vt.

180. INQUESTS, 1905. 1 file box.
Coroner's inquests showing State, county, certification of clerk, name of deceased, clerk's fee, coroner's fee, witness fees, total, oath, and clerk's signature. No index. 9 x 4 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

IX AUDITOR

The auditor is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term. No person can hold office for more than two consecutive terms. He is required to post bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1889; Indiana Const., art. 6, sec. 2; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 49-3001 to 49-3003.)

The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1841. All records are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

This office is the center of county administration. Financial affairs are transacted through it and here the records of county business are preserved.

The auditor's principal functions are four-fold; As a county "controller", he keeps the accounts of the county and issues warrants for all claims approved by the commissioners. Ex-officio he acts as clerk of the board of commissioners, the county council, and the board of tax adjustment, and as secretary to the board of finance and the board of review. As a tax officer, he prepares the official tax duplicates, serves as a member of the board of review as well as its secretary, and certifies to the treasurer the amount of taxes due from banks. As budget officer, he compiles estimates made to him by each county agency and submits them to the county council. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1899, 1907, 1919, 1920 Special Session, 1933; Burns' ibid., 26-509, 26-520, 26-611, 61-606, 64-304, 64-1007, 64-1201.)

Minor routine duties are keeping a land transfer record book; managing the common school fund, the Congressional township school fund, and apportioning semi-annually the interest of these funds to the school corporations; preparing the ditch duplicate covering assessments for construction or repair of ditches and drains; issuing peddlers'

licenses and public warehouse permits; acknowledging deeds and mortgages executed for the security of trust funds; approving bonds of townships trustees; advertising and selling bonds; delivering election supplies to election inspectors; issuing tax deed; and accepting bequests for cemeteries. (1 Indiana Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns' ibid., 49-3004 to 49-3018.) Many other duties are prescribed by statute.

Audits and Reports

181. MONTHLY BALANCE BOOK, 1925--. 2 vols.
Financial statements, showing receipts to date by funds, gravel roads, repairs, bonds, State tax, disbursements by funds, and balances of funds. Arr. chron. Hdw. 125 pp. 21 x 16 x 2. Auditor's vt.

182. TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1934--. 12 vols.
Auditor's copies of trustee's annual report to the advisory board, showing receipts and disbursements by date, warrant and check nos., payer and payee, cause, road funds, school funds, tuition funds, dog tax funds, and bonds. Arr. chron. Hdw. 75 pp. 10 x 15 x ½. Auditor's vt.

183. TRUSTEE'S REPORTS, 1936--. 10 bundles.
Trustee's vouchers, showing date, payee, and title of fund or appropriation. Arr. numerically by serial no. 6 x 3 x 2. Auditor's vt.

184. DOG TAX REPORTS, 1929--. 1 file box.
Trustee's dog tax reports to auditor, showing amount on hand, amounts paid out, payee, cause, and balance. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

185. CIRCUIT COURT ALLOWANCES, SPECIAL JUDGE, 1899--. 3 file boxes.
Allowances made for special judges and court in general, showing date,

names, amounts, oath, and attest of clerk. Arr. chron. 9 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

185a. DISCOUNT REGISTER, 1913-15. 1 vol.
Register of discounts on notes, showing maker's name, endorsement, amount due, date, from whom discounted, and paid mark. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Basement stg. rm.

Receipts and Disbursements

186. AUDITOR'S APPROPRIATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1925--. 5 vols.
Record of amounts appropriated and disbursed, showing date, payee, account, cause, warrant no., and balance. Indexed alph. by names of funds. Hdw. 250 pp. 18 x 15 x 2½. Auditor's vt.

187. REGISTER OF RECEIPTS, BENTON COUNTY, 1843-87. 1 vol.
Record of Congressional school funds, interest, and warrants drawn by treasurer, showing payer, title of fund, ledger folio, amount, and remarks. No index. Hdw. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½. Basement "bum" rm.

188. APPROPRIATION LEDGER, BENTON COUNTY, 1911-13. 2 vols.
Record showing date, amount appropriated, title of appropriation, warrant no., cause, account, and amount. No index. Hdw. on printed form. 200 pp. 14 x 18 x 2. Basement "bum" rm.

189. DISBURSEMENT RECORD, 1894-97. 1 vol.
Record of amount apportioned and paid to twps., from dog tax, liquor licenses, school revenues, road tax, and twp., revenues. Arr. chron. Hdw. 225 pp. 16 x 11 x 1½. Auditor's vt.

Receipts and Disbursements(continued).

190. RECORD OF DISBURSEMENTS(AUDITOR), 1893-1910. 3 vols. (1, 1-2). Record of disbursements for all county expenses, showing date, amount, cause, payee and balance. Arr. chron. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

For later records, see entry 181.

191. (DISTRIBUTION RECORD), 1916. 1 vol.
Record of distribution of tuition funds, derived from school revenues, liquor licenses, dog tax, and Congressional school revenues. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 12 x 20 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

192. DISTRIBUTION SHEETS AND ABSTRACTS, 1933--. 1 vol.
Record of financial settlements between auditor and treasurer, showing value of lands and lots, State, county, and city taxes, school taxes, and delinquent taxes. Arr. chron. Hdw. on printed form. 25 pp. 22 x 33 x ¼. Auditor's vt.

193-194. FUNDS OF TOWNSHIP, 1861-78. 2 vols. Title varies.
Record of county funds, distributed to twps., showing school funds, road funds, dog tax funds, and totals. Arr. alph. by name of twps. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 10 x 1. Basement "bum" rm.

195. WARRANTS, 1911--. 13 vols.
Record of warrants allowed by county commissioners, showing warrant no., date, amount, payee and title of appropriation. Arr. chron. Typed. 834 pp. 17 x 11 x 3½. Basement "bum" rm.

196. COUNTY WARRANTS, 1903--. 30 file boxes.
Auditor's warrants, showing title of appropriation, serial no., payee, cause, and amount. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

Receipts and Disbursements(continued)

197. QUIETUS, 1929--. 2 vols.

Record of bills paid, showing date, payee, amount, title of fund, and cause. Arr. chron. Hdw. on printed form. 206 pp. 16 x 11 x 1. Auditor's vt.

Taxes

Appraisements

198. TRANSFER BOOK, 1854--. 160 vols.

Record of land transferred, showing former and new owner, location and description of property transferred, consideration, date of transfer, and deed. Arr. alph. by name of new owners. Hdw. and typed. 340 pp. 17 x 13 x 2. 1895-99, basement "bum" rm.; 1854--, auditor's vt.

199. (ABSTRACTS OF TITLE), 1936--. 7 file boxes.

Abstracts showing date of transfer, name of owner, date of recording, date of deed, oath, and attest. Arr. chron. 11 x 5 x 18. Auditor's off.

200. ABSTRACT OF THE SALE OF SWAMP LANDS, 1854-58. 1 file box.

Record of sales of swamp lands, showing date, certificate no., purchaser, location, description of land, acreage, and price. No index. 10 x 5 x 3. Auditor's record rm.

201-202. VALUATION RECORD, BENTON COUNTY, 1859-91. 2 vols.

1864-90, missing. Title varies.

Records of valuation of property, showing location, description, acreage, name of owner, and value of lands. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement "bum" rm.

Taxes--Appraisements(continued)

203-204. ENUMERATION OF WHITE AND COLORED MALES, 1907-31, 71 vols.
Record of all male inhabitants of age of 21 years and over, showing name, residence, age, and color. Arr. by name of resident. Hdw. 75 pp. 15 x 10 x ¼. 70 vols., 1907-30, basement "bum" rm.; 1 vol., 1931--, auditor's off.

Returns

205. LIST OF MORTGAGE EXEMPTIONS, 1925-30. 1 file box.
Record of persons claiming tax exemptions, showing name, residence, amount of debt, and amount of exemption. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

206. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION AND DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS, 1933--. 1 file box.
Information concerning manufacturing, merchandising and brokerage business, showing serial no., name or title, location, assets, liabilities, net amount, and attest. Arr. chron. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

207. STATEMENT BOOK, 1892-93. 1 vol.
Financial statements of depository banks in Oxford and Ambia, Ind., showing deposits, statements, bills receivable, expenditures, stocks, and bonds, buildings, furniture, and total. No index, Hdw. 572 pp. 14 x 16 x 3½. Basement "bum" rm.

Lists

208. ASSESSMENT LIST, 1896--. 305 vols.
Record of lands and lots for taxation purposes, showing owners name and

Taxes--Lists(continued)

address, location and description of property, and value. Arr. alph. by owners names. Hdw. on printed form. 200 pp. 14 x 9 x 1. 18 vols., 1928, treasurer's off.; 213 vols., 1896-1933, basement "bum" rm.; 74 vols., 1932--, auditor's vt.

209. ASSESSMENT LIST, 1917--. 249 vols.

Record of personal taxable property, showing owner's name and address, list of property value, and attest. Arr. alph. by owners names. Hdw. on printed form. 485 pp. 14 x 9 x 3. 1917-31, basement "bum" rm.; 1932--, auditor's vt.

210. CERTIFICATE OF TAX LEVIES, 1925-33. 2 file boxes.

Certificates of tax levies, showing date, twp., amount, assessed, aproval of advisory board, and attest of secretary. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

Delinquent and Erroneous

211. AUDITOR'S RECORD OF DELINQUENCIES AND TAX SALES, 1846--. 2 vols. (A, C). 1879-1906, missing.

Record of tax delinquent lots and lands, showing owner, description and location of land, amount delinquent costs, date of sale, purchaser, and date of redemption. Arr. alph. by names of owners. Hdw. and typed. 200 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. 1846-78, basement "bum" rm.; 1907--, auditor's vt.

212. (DELINQUENT AND APPORTIONED TAXES), 1922--. 8 file boxes.

Apportionments of delinquent taxes collected, showing date, name of delinquent, amount of delinquency, amount of collection, oath of delinquent, and auditor's attest. No index. 10 x 13 x 23. Auditor's vt.

Taxes--Delinquent and Erroneous(continued)

213. CERTIFICATES OF ERRONEOUS TAXES, 1910-15. 1 file box.
Lists of persons entitled to refunds of taxes paid in excess, showing name of taxpayer, amount of refund authorized, date of payment, and auditors attest. No index. 9 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

214. TAX CERTIFICATES, 1909--. 3 file boxes.
Certificates of sales of property to satisfy delinquent tax claims, showing serial no., name of owner, amount delinquent, purchaser, date of filing and attest. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's vt.

School Funds

215. SCHOOL FUNDS, 1905--. 3 vols.
Record of school funds of county, showing date, amount received, amount paid out of Congressional funds, permanent endowment funds, and common funds, fees, and balances. No index. Hdw. 314 pp. 15 x 10 x 1 3/4. Auditor's vt.

216. INVENTORY OF SCHOOL FUNDS, 1929--. 1 vol.
Record of trust or school funds, showing total amount of each fund, amount loaned out, date of loan, interest, payments made and amount of funds represented by forfeited lands. Arr. chron. Hdw. 160 pp. 17 x 17 x 2. Auditor's vt.

217. RECORD OF PERMANENT ENDOWMENT PRINCIPAL, 1898-1912. 1 vol.
Record of permanent endowment school fund, showing date, receipt no., payer, amount, interest paid to State, and balance. Arr. chron. Hdw. 50 pp. 14 x 9 x ¼. Auditor's vt.

School Funds(continued)

218. SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS' RECORD, 1841-50. 1 vol.

Record of seminary school funds and bank tax funds, showing agreements between school commissioners and borrowers, date of note, serial no., name of borrower, description of security, amount loaned, and attest. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Basement "bun" rm.

219. REGISTER OF LOANS, 1863--. 3 vols. (1-2, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of school trust fund loans, showing date, name of borrower, amount, description of security, and appraised and assessed valuation. Indexed alph. by names of borrowers. Hdw. 432 pp. 17 x 12 x 2. Auditor's vt.

220. SCHOOL FUND MORTGAGES, 1936--. 7 file boxes, (A-B to V-Y).

Mortgage certificates securing school fund loans, showing date, name of mortgagor, description of real estate, amount of loan, payment dates, and attest. Arr. chron. 11 x 5 x 18. Auditor's off.

221. REGISTER OF LOANS ON SCHOOL TRUST FUND, 1872-1919. 1 vol.

Record showing date, serial no., borrower's name, amount borrowed, description and valuation of property mortgaged, payment dates, and attest. Indexed alph. by names of borrowers. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Treasurer's off.

222. RECORD OF CONGRESSIONAL PRINCIPAL, 1903-21. 1 vol.

Record showing date, order no., payee, title of account, amount, and balance. Arr. chron. Hdw. 225 pp. 14 x 10 x 2½. Auditor's vt.

School Funds(continued)

223. SCHOOL LANDS FOR SALE, 1854-1900. 1 file box.
Land sale certificates, showing date, name of purchaser, description of land, date recorded, attest and auditor's signature. No index. 9 x 5 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

Official Bonds
(See also entries 48-50)

224. BOND RECORD, 1904--. 3 vols. (1-2, and 1 vol. not numbered).
Record of bonds of county officials, administrators, executors, and contractors, showing name of principal amount and conditions of bond, names of sureties, signatures, date, and acknowledgment. Indexed alph. by names of principals. Typed. 602 pp. 19 x 13 x 2 3/4. Auditor's vt.

225,226. BONDS (ALL COUNTY OFFICIALS), 1885--. 2 file boxes.
1922-31, missing.
Bonds filed by county officials, showing date, name of official, amount and conditions of bond, names of sureties, signatures, and acknowledgment. Arr. numerically. 10 x 5 x 18. Auditor's off.

227. ASSESSOR'S BOND, 1909-21. 1 file box.
Original bond, showing date, name of principal, amount and obligations of bond, names of sureties, signatures, acknowledgment, and auditor's signature. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

228. TRUSTEE BOND, 1900-21. 1 file box.
Original instruments, showing name of principal, amount and obligations of bond, sureties, signatures, date of attest, and auditor's signature. No index. 10 x 5 x 13. Auditor's record rm.

Maps

229. BENTON COUNTY, 1926. 1 map.

Political map, showing highways, roads, railroads, towns, and twps. Drawn and published by Don. Heaton, Surveyor, Fowler, Ind. Black and white. Scale; 1" to 1 mile. 35 x 36. Auditor's vt.

230. FOWLER, INDIANA. 1 map.

Political map, showing additions, lots, public buildings, streets, and alleys. Drawn by Ray Jones, Recorder, Fowler, Ind. Black and white. No scale given. 48 x 51. Auditor's off.

X ASSESSOR

The office of county assessor was created by an act of 1891 (Acts 1891, ch. 99, sec. 112). This officer is elected for a four-year term, there being no prohibition against successive terms in office. Qualifications are established by law; he must be a continuous freeholder of Benton County for not less than four years prior to the date of his election, and he must provide a five thousand dollar bond, with two or more good freehold sureties approved by the auditor, who also administers the oath of office. His work is under the direction of the State board of tax commissioners, and he may be removed by that board, after a hearing, for incompetency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office. (Acts 1919; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 64-1101.)

The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1891. All records are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

His duties are to instruct and advise the township assessors, to review their returns, to assess omitted real and personal property, to appraise estates for inheritance taxes, to carry out the orders of the State board of tax commissioners, and to report to the board any delinquencies of township assessors. He is ex-officio member and president of Benton County board of review. He also sets the value upon intangibles for taxation, and examines public records to find if this tax is paid. (Acts 1919; Burns' ibid., 64-1101, 64-1102.)

231. ASSESSOR'S BOOK, 1899--. 747 vols.
Assessor's book, showing lists of persons assessed, description of land, section, twps., range, acres, and true cash value of lands. Arr. alph. by name of person assessed. Hdw. 48 pp. 17 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Auditor's vt.

Benton County has an annual board for the review of assessments and the equalization of the valuation of real and personal property. The board is composed of the assessor, treasurer, auditor, and two freeholders of opposite political parties, appointed by the judge of the circuit court. The assessor is the president and the auditor is the secretary of the board. (Acts 1919; Sec. 64-1201, 64-1205, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.) The inception date of this board in Benton County is 1891. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

From 1881 to 1891 the duties of reviewing and equalizing tax assessments were performed by a county board of equalization consisting of the county commissioners and four freeholders appointed by the circuit judge. (Acts 1881, Ch. 96. p. 611.) The law of 1891 superseded this act and created the county board of review, composed of the treasurer, assessor, and auditor (Acts 1891). The act of 1919 reestablished the board, adding the two freeholder appointments to its membership.

It is the duty of the board to make changes in the valuation of the property in the township or any taxing unit within the township, and to determine the rate per cent to be added or deducted in order to make an equitable equalization of taxes throughout the county. The board also has the power, in proper cases, to correct the valuation of any particular tract or lot. (Acts 1919, ibid.)

If the board shall find the aggregate assessment too high or too low or unequal, it may set aside the assessment of the whole county, or township, or taxing unit therein, and order a new assessment (Acts 1919, Ibid).

232. BOARD OF REVIEW, 1891-1933. 2 vols.

Report of the proceedings of the board, showing record of oaths administered to board members. No index. Typed. 150 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. 1 vol., 1891-1914, basement stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1915-1933, auditor's vt.

XII BOARD OF TAX ADJUSTMENT

The board of tax adjustment of Benton County consists of one member of the county council selected by the council, and six members appointed by the judge of the circuit court. The appointees must have the following qualifications; one shall be a township trustee; one shall be a mayor or president of the board of trustees of an incorporated town; one shall be a member of the city board of education; and three shall be resident freeholders of the county at large, not holding any public office. Not more than four of the members of the board shall belong to the same political party. (Acts 1933; Sec. 64-304, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.) The inception date of this board in Benton County is 1933. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

It is the duty of the board to examine, and if it deems necessary, revise, change, or reduce, but not increase, any tax levy and any corresponding items of the budget on which the tax levies are based, and apportion the total of all of the levies so that the total levy on property within any municipal corporation for which the property therein is taxable, shall not exceed the total rate as provided by law. (Ibid.)

233. COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ADJUSTMENT, 1935--. 1 file box. Record of final and proposed tax rates, showing name of tax unit, State, county, road bonds, twp., tution, special assessments, bonds, poor relief corporation, total rate for year 1935-1935, and annual difference. No index. 4 x 12 x 22. Auditor's vt.

The board of Benton County commissioners constitutes the board of finance. The auditor acts as secretary. The board may sue and be sued in its own name whenever necessary to accomplish the purposes intended by its creation. The inception date of this board in Benton County is 1907. All records of this board are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The board of finance has charge of and controls the funds of Benton County (Acts 1907; Sec. 61-606, 61-607, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933).

The board of finance selects the depository for county funds. It approves the purchase of U. S. Government bonds or other interest-bearing obligations of the U. S. Government. It invites proposals to receive public funds on deposit, receives proposals, and creates and revokes depositories. (Acts 1907, 1909, 1931, Sec. 61-610 to 61-613, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933).

The General Assembly of 1935 repealed the act establishing this board, and in the same session in the "Depository Act of 1935", re-established the board of finance practically unaltered (Acts 1935; Sec. 61-606, 61-628, 61-631 to 61-639, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933 Supplement).

234. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS, 1907-35. 1 vol.
Record of proceedings of board, showing minutes of meetings, proposals filed, depositories, type and amounts of bonds, maximum amount of issue, depositories approval, and names of board members. Arr. alph. Typed. 576 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Auditor's vt.

235. DEPOSITORY REPORTS, 1908-19. 4 file boxes.

Monthly reports of depositories, showing amounts of funds, interest, receipts, warrants, and balance. No index. 9 x 4 x 13. Auditor's vt.

XIV TREASURER

The treasurer is a constitutional officer elected for a term of two years and is not eligible to serve more than four years in any period of six years. He is nominated in the primary and elected in the regular election. He is required to execute his official bond of not less than the amount of money which may come into his hands at any time during the term. (Indiana Const., Art. 6, Sec. 1; Sec. 49-3101, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.) The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The treasurer receives all money coming to Benton County and disburses the same on the proper orders. He keeps fee books and cash books and makes quarterly reports to the auditor. At the expiration of his term of office he gives a sworn statement to the auditor showing specifically the amount of fees collected, and deposits with the auditor all orders redeemed. He makes a monthly statement to the treasurer of State, collects property and poll taxes and State licenses fees, and diverts to the State the proceeds from the sale of estates when the heirs are unknown. (Indiana Const., Art. 6, Sec. 1; 1 Indiana Rev. Stat, 1852; Acts 1853; Sec. 49-3103 to 49-3317, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.)

Tax Collections

236. TAX DUPLICATES, 1840--. 365 vols.

Tax duplicates, showing description of real, personal, and poll tax

assessments, delinquents, description and value of land, and improvements. Arr. alph. by twp. and corporation. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 24 x 3. 1840-1923, basement stg. rm.; 1925--, treasurer's off.

237. CASH BOOK, 1873--. 44 vols.

Register of tax collections, showing twp., date, month, duplicate no., tax collected, current tax, delinquent amounts, insolvent tax, special assessments, surplus tax, and total amounts. Arr. alph. by names of twp. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1873-1924, basement stg. rm.; 1911-- auditor's off.

238. TAX RECEIPTS, 1918--. 399 vols.

Record of tax receipts, showing description of real estate, amount of installments, date, receipts, lot and block nos,, sec., twp., range, acres, mortgage exemptions, net value of real and personal property, name, and amounts. No index. Hdw. .500 pp. 18 x 14 x 3. 380 vols., 1918-29, basement stg. rm.; 19 vols., 1930--, treasurer's off.

239. GRAVEL ROAD DUPLICATE, 1895-1915. 23 vols.

Tax duplicates and delinquent lists, showing date, description of property, name of owner, amount delinquent, penalties, interest, assessments, and total amounts. Arr. alph. by name of owner. Hdw. 100 pp. 17 x 16 x 1. Basement stg. rm.

240. INHERITANCE TAX, 1924-1930. 1 file box.

Record of taxes against estates, showing names of heirs, value, interest exemption, rate and amount of taxes, county, twp., city, town, addition, sec., range, acres, lot and block no., name of judge, and date of death.

Tax Collections(continued)

Arr. alph. by name of executor. 12 x 12 x 3. Treasurer's off.

241. INSOLVENT TAX RECORD, 1931--. 1 vol.

Record of insolvent taxes, showing name of tax payer, no. of years, taxes overdue, amount of taxes, and reason for tax being uncollected. Hdw. Arr. chron. 400 pp. 12 x 8 x 2. Treasurer's off.

242. WORK SHEETS (DELINQUENT TAXES), 1935--. 3 vols.

Record of delinquent tax work sheets and payments, showing entries to cash, checks, depositories, and totals. Arr. alph. by name of twp. Hdw. on printed form. 600 pp. 12 x 14 x 4. Treasurer's off.

243. DELINQUENT REGISTER OF LANDS, 1864-1914. 1 vol.

Record of sale of lands and lots, showing to whom sold, and by whom redeemed, and date of redemption. Arr. alph. by owners name. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Treasurer's off.

244. (DELINQUENT TAX RECEIPTS) 1931--. 4 file drawers.

Record of delinquent tax receipts, showing name, amount, date, receipt no., exemption, personal poll, net valuation, amount due, tax penalty, days, interest, costs, and total amount. No index. 12 x 14 x 24. Treasurer's off.

Receipts and Disbursements

245. DAILY BALANCE BOOK, 1908--. 15 vols.

Record of tax receipts by twp., and municipalaties, showing current taxes, delinquent, assessments, insolvents, special assessments, State, county, city, depository accounts, daily deposits and withdrawals, balances,

Receipts and Disbursements(continued)

and totals. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. 1908-1913, basement stg. rm.; 1918--, treasurer's off.

246. JOURNAL, COMMERCIAL BANK, 1888-93. 11 vols.

Record of the receivership of the Commercial Bank, Fowler, Ind., showing names, date, amounts and balances, daily business, expense, daily record, discount, exchange, amount, and totals. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

247. FOREIGN COLLECTION REGISTER, OXFORD STATE BANK, 1879-92. 3 vols. Titles varies.

Record of foreign collections paid, showing names, amount, city, date, year, payee, payer, and total amounts. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

248. JOURNAL, 1842-77. 2 vols.

Record of allowances, showing date of county orders redeemed, name, and amounts. Arr. chron. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 9 x 1. Auditor's vt.

249. INTEREST COLLECTED, 1864-75. 1 vol.

Record of interest collected on common school fund, showing date, amount, and by whom paid. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 11 x 1½. Recorder's vt.

250. INTEREST COLLECTED, 1874-1900. 2 vols.

Record of interest collected, showing by whom paid, amount of loan, interest, account, date, town, range, amount of interest paid, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of payer. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 15 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

Receipts and Disbursements(continued)

251. TREASURER'S RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1925-30. 1 vol.
Record of receipts and disbursements, showing amount of warrant, receipt no., fund, disbursements, date, warrant no., amount, overdrafts, and balance. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3½. Treasurer's off.

252. RECORD OF DISBURSEMENTS, 1893-1910. 3 vols. (1,2,3).
Record of disbursements, showing order no., whose favor drawn, purpose issued, and amounts. Arr. chron. Hdw. on printed form. 500 pp. 18 x 24 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

253. LEDGER, 1877-94. 11 vols.
Record of depository balances, showing dates, check amounts, names of depositors, and balances. Arr. alph. by names of depositors. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 4. Basement stg. rm.

254. REGISTER OF ORDERS, 1865-91. 3 vols.
Record of orders of county expense allowed by circuit and commissioner's court, showing name, dates, drawer, and date of indorsement. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 18 x 3. Basement stg. rm.

255. CHECK AND DEPOSIT BOOK, 1914-35. 2 vols. (2-3). Vol. 1, prior to 1914, missing.
Record of county funds deposited, showing name of bank, to whom issued, check no., and amount. Arr. alph. by name of bank. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Treasurer's off.

Maps

256. BENTON COUNTY, 1926. 1 map.
Communications map, showing railroads, and county and State highways.

Maps(continued)

Drawn by Don. Heaton. Published at Fowler, Ind. Printed, black and white. 5 x 5.. Treasurer's off.

By an Act of 1873, a county board of education was created. The board is comprised of the county superintendent of schools, the trustees of the county, and chairman of the school trustees of each city and town of the county. The inception date of this board in Benton County is 1873. All records of this board are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The duties of the board shall be to consider the general wants and needs of the school and matters relating to purchase of school furniture, books, maps, charts, etc. (Acts 1873; Sec. 28-801, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933).

257. RECORD COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT. 1897--. 1 vol.
Record of proceedings of board of education, showing success grades, teachers names, name of school, twp., special tuition, funds, school library, vocational, and total. No index. Hdw. and typed. 344 pp. 16 x 11 x 2. School Superintendent's off.

258. RECORD OF BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION. 1916--. 1 vol.
Record of meetings of board, showing place of meeting, date, salaries discussed, motions made, medals awarded to pupils for attendance, trustee's program, and names of trustees. Arr. chron. Hdw. 400 pp. 14 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. School superintendent's off.

259. COUNTY AGENT(AGRICULTURAL). 1933. 1 file box.
Record of county agent's appointment, showing name of agent, annual salary, mileage and travel expense, and itemized bills approved by board of education. No index. 4 x 4 x $9\frac{1}{2}$. School superintendent's off.

For agent's records, see entries 300-304.

In 1873, by legislative enactment, the office of county superintendent of schools was created. This officer is elected by the township trustees and serves for a term of four years. The candidate must have had five years of successful experience as a teacher in the public shcools, and at the time of his election he must hold a superintendent's license. He must give bond for five thousand dollars. (Acts 1873; Sec. 28-702, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.) The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1873. All records are in courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The superintendent exercises general supervision of the schools of Benton County. He visits schools while they are in session, conducts teacher's institutes, and calls meetings of teachers of Benton County schools once each month in the school year. He makes out the basis of apportionment of school revenues from the enumeration. He presides over the county board of education and receives applications for school aid relief. (Acts 1933; Sec. 28-901 to 28-911, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.)

Activities and Reports

260. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS, 1878-82. 1 vol.
Record of teachers' licenses, showing examinations, enumeration of school children, county superintendent's report to State superintendent as to twp. account of revenue for tuition, name of twp., report of grades, and total of grades. Arr. chron. Hdw. 225 pp. 10 x 18 x 1. Basement "bum" rm.

261. (MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS), not dated. 6 file boxes.
Miscellaneous papers, showing reports, and letters received by school

Activities and Reports(continued)

superintendent from school officials and twp. school boards. Arr. by twp. 4 x 4 x 9. School superintendent's off.

262. ANNUAL REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, 1925-35. 1 folder. Superintendent's school enrollment reports, showing term, pupil's names, name of twps., schools, no. of pupils, transfers, and parochial school enrollment . No index. 14 x 9 x $\frac{1}{4}$. School superintendent's off.

263. REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, 1925-35. 2 file drawers. Reports of trustees, showing schools, pupils, transfers, type of school, legal school term, no. of days schools were in operation, no. of new buses purchased, total pupil enrollment during school term, schools, boys, girls, total grade, and remarks. Arr. chron. 11 x 13 x 24. School superintendent's off.

264. INCOME TAX RETURN, 1933-34. 1 file box. Distribution report of State gross income tax revenues, showing school fund allotment. No index. 4 x 4 x 9. School superintendent's off.

265. LEGAL OPINIONS, 1931-35. 1 file box. Laws and regulations governing distribution of taxes to school fund, showing State board of education's rulings on teacher regulations. No index. 4 x 4 x 9. School superintendent's off.

Enumerations

266. ENUMERATION RECORDS, 1925-29. 2 file boxes. Enumeration by twps. of children of school age, showing parent's or guardian's name, , children's names , sex, date of birth, age April 10, of year

specified, street and no., congressional district, twp., range no., and remarks. Arr. alph. by parent's or guardian's name. 6 x 4 x 15. School superintendent's off.

Teachers

267. TEACHERS' REPORTS, 1933. 1 file box.
Teachers' reports of grades made by pupils, showing pupil's name, subject grades, and name of school. No index. 4 x 4 x 9½. School superintendent's off.

268. TEACHERS' LICENSE RECORD, 1927, 1923--. 1 file box.
Teachers' record, showing years taught, schools attended, degree obtained, license record, kind of certificate, grade issued, expiration, serial no., grade or subjects, member of teacher's retirement fund (yes or no), age beginning, membership no., annual contribution, experience, success, training, salary per month. Arr. alph. by teacher's name. 8 x 5 x 15. School superintendent's off.

Pupils

269. HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS, 1923--. 3 file drawers.
Record of high school students' four year course, showing grades, names, ages, name of school attended, birth, date certified, place, parent's or guardian's name, credits, date entered, date left, cause, entered high school from what school, scholarship record, subject, grade, no. of periods, period length, no. of weeks, summary of credits, English, social studies, foreign studies, attendance record, year days on roll, days present, days

absent, times tardy, curriculum, date graduated, and rank in class. Arr. alph. by student's name. Printed form. 11 x 13 x 17. School Superintendent's off.

270. RECORD OF EIGHTH GRADE PUPIL'S EXAMINATIONS, 1917-27. 1 vol. Record of pupil's examinations for county school graduation, showing year, pupil's name, address, person grading examinations in spelling, writing, arithmetic, grammar, history, agriculture, domestic science, geography, music, with general average. No index. Hdw. 125 pp. 16 x 11 x 1. School superintendent's off.

271. SCHOLARSHIPS, 1931-35. 1 file box.
Miscellaneous papers pertaining to scholarships for Indiana University, showing names of students considered, recommendations, and average grades. No index. 4 x 4 x 9. School superintendent's off.

272. NEW TYPE TEST SCORES, 1933-35. 2 file boxes.
Results of tests given school children on different subjects, showing grade, distribution of scores, score in general science, physiology, spelling, total, and medium score. Arr. chron. 4 x 4 x 9. School superintendent's off.

XVII HEALTH COMMISSIONER

By legislative enactment in 1891, the office of health commissioner was created. This officer is elected by the county commissioners to serve for a term of four years. The inception date of the records of this office in Benton County is 1882. From 1882 until 1891 records were kept by the county board of health composed of the township trustees, a mayor, common council of each city in the county, and board of county commissioners. After the establishment of the health commissioner the board was abolished. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

It is his duty to safeguard the health and to promote sanitary systems for the citizens of the county. He is also required to study and check contagious diseases in the various communities, wherever and whenever possible, and advise and counsel various persons interest in the control of diseases. He is required to maintain records of births, deaths, marriages, make dairy inspections, food inspections, and hold regular intervals. (Acts 1891; Sec. 35-108, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933.)

273. RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1885--. 10 vols.
Record of births in unincorporated towns and county rural districts, showing date, place, sex, race, whether legitimate or not, and parents history. Arr. alph. by name of child. Hdw. Condition fair. 100 pp. 14 x 12 x 1. Health commissioner's private off.

For earlier records, see entry 278.

274. RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1888-1918, 4 vols.

Record of marriages in unincorporated towns and county rural districts, showing name, age, race, occupation of bride and groom, parents name, mothers maiden name, by whom married, and date of marriage. Arr. alph. by name of groom. Hdw. 50 pp. 14 x 12 x 1. Health commissioner's private off.

For other records, see entries 51-52, 275-278.

275. RETURN OF MARRIAGES TO COUNTY CLERK, 1918--. 1 drawer.

Return of marriages from unincorporated towns and county rural districts, showing name, age, race, address, occupation, and no. of marriages of bridge and groom. Arr. chron. 8 x 8 x 3. Health commissioner's off.

For other marriage records, see entries 51-52, 274.

276. RECORD OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, 1888--. 3 vols.

Record of contagious diseases in unincorporated towns and county rural districts, showing cause, name of afflicted, age, sex, race, address, and by whom reported. Arr. alph. by name of patient. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 x 12 x 1. Health commissioner's private off.

For earlier records, see entry 278.

277. RECORD OF DEATHS, 1888--. 3 vols.

Record of deaths in unincorporated towns and county rural districts, showing name of deceased, age, sex, race, address, cause of death, and short history of deceased. Arr. chron. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 x 12 x 1. Health commissioner's private off.

For earlier records, see entry 278.

278. RECORD OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DISEASES, AND DEATHS. 1882-88. 1 vol.

Record of marriages, births, deseases, and deaths in unincorporated towns and county rural districts, showing births, date, place, sex, race, whether legitimate or not, and parent's history, marriages, no. and date of license, name, address, occupation, age, and short history of bride and groom, diseases, name of afflicted person, outcome of disease, and short history of person, deaths, name of deceased, age, sex, race, occupation, and cause of death. Arr. chron. Hdw. 18 x 12 x 3. Health commissioner's private off.

For later records, see entries 273, 274, 276, 277.

XVIII BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The board of public welfare of Benton county consists of five persons having a recognized interest in and knowledge of the problems of public welfare. The board is appointed by the judge of the circuit court; at least two members must be women and not more than three members may be adherents of any one political party. (Acts 1936, Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 52-1118.) The inception date of this board in Benton county is 1936. All records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

Susject to the rules and regulations of the State department of public welfare, the county board is charged with the administration of assistance to dependent children in their own homes, old age assistance, services and assistance to persons otherwise handicapped, the care and treatment of dependent, neglected, and handicapped children, children in danger of becoming delinquent, and other welfare activities as may be delegated to it by the State department of public welfare, under the provisions of the act, including services connected with assistance to the blind.

The director, who is appointed by the board of public welfare of Benton county under the supervision of the circuit court, performs the functions of probation officer and agent of the court. (Acts 1936; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 52-1119, 52-1120.)

A board of childrens' guardians, which was established in 1889 to care for neglected children, was abolished by the 1936 act and jurisdiction was transferred to the board of public welfare (Acts 1936;

Burns', 1933 Stat., 52-121.)

All jurisdiction vested in county boards pertaining to welfare work was transferred to the board of public welfare in 1936(Acts 1936; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 52-1408).

279. MINUTE BOOK WELFARE DEPARTMENT, 1936--. 1 vol.
Record of meetings of board of public welfare, showing actions and recommendations of board relative to applications for assistance from welfare board. Arr. chron. Typed. 14 x 9 x 1. Welfare off.

280. REGISTER OF APPLICATIONS, 1936--. 1 vol.
Record of applications for assistance of old age pensions, aid to dependent children, and aid to the blind, showing application date, no. applicant's name, new application or previously rejected, investigator's name, and whether case awarded or rejected. Arr. numerically. Typed. 100 pp. 10 x 21 x 1. Welfare off.

281. (RECORD OF APPLICANTS FOR OLD ASSISTANCE,) 1936--. 1 drawer.
Record of applications for old age assistance, showing applicant's name, address, age, short history, applicant's financial and personal assets, and applicant's signature. Arr. numerically. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

282. (VISTORS' REPORT ON APPLICANT FOR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE,) 1936--. 1 drawer.
Vistor's report on applicant for old age assistance, showing name, address, age, history financial and personal assets. No index . 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

283. (DATA FROM RESPONSIBLE RELATIVE) 1936--. 1 drawer.
Data from responsible relative of applicant for old age assistance, showing relatives' statement regarding contributions or help given applicant. No index. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

284. RECOMMENDATIONS COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE,1936. 1 vol.
Record of recommendations of county director of public welfare, showing application no., applicant's name, history, action of board of public welfare as to rejections and revocations. Arr. numerically. Typed. 50 pp. 12 x 14 x 1. Welfare off.

285. (REWARD OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN) 1936--. 1 vol.
Record of assistance given aged persons and dependent children, showing amount, kind of assistance, name, monthly award, and date effective. Arr. numerically. Hdw. 400 pp. 10 x 14 x 1. Welfare off.

286. (REINVESTIGATION STATEMENT FOR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE) 1936--. 1 drawer.
Reinvestigation of person receiving old age assistance to determine if applicant is worthy of more money, showing name, address, age, history, financial and personal assets. No index. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

287. (CERTIFICATE OF CHANGE OF AWARD OF OLD AGE ASSISTANCE) 1936--. 1 drawer.
Certificate of change of award of old age assistance, showing name, address, date, and amount of increase allowed. No index. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

288. (APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN) 1936--. 1 drawer.

Application of parent or guardian seeking assistance for children, showing no., age, children's names, and parent's or guardian's sworn statement. No index. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

289. (RECORD OF DEPENDENT CHILD'S FAMILY,)1936--. 1 drawer.

Family history of parents or guardian of dependent child, showing names, address, ages, enviroment, financial assets, moral, physicial, and mental condition of family, and action taken by board of public welfare. No index. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

290. (CERTIFICATE OF AWARD FOR ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN), 1936--. 1 drawer.

Certificate of award for assistance to dependent children, showing amount, childrens' names, ages, and parent or guardian's name. No index. 12 x 12 x 24. Welfare off.

291. REGISTER OF CLAIMS FILED AND APPROVED, AND WARRANTS ISSUED, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of all operating expenses, and money paid out for assistance, showing date, payee, name of appropriation, name of account chargeable amounts, and date warrant issued by auditor. Arr. numerically by claim no. Typed. 200 pp. 12 x 14 x ½. Welfare off.

The county surveyor is a constitutional officer, elected for a term of two years without restriction on re-election. (Acts 1852; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 49-3301). He must give bond in a sum fixed by the board of county commissioners. (Indiana Const., art. 6, sec. 2; 1 Ind. Rev. Stat.. 1852; Burns' ibid., 49-3302). The inception date of date of this office in Benton County is 1840. All of the records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The surveyor has charge, under direction of the county commissioners, of all surveying and civil engineering work of the county. No professional qualifications are required either by constitution or statute. If the surveyor elected is not a registered engineer, an assistant must be employed to perform the engineering duties of the office. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1911; Burns' ibid., 49-3309).

The duties of the office are of two classes, public and private. The surveyor prepares plans and specifications for public improvements and has charge of the construction and maintenance of drainage ditches in the county. He removes, after examination, the obstruction of any streams. He also has charge of the maintenance and repair of county highways, brdiges, and culverts unless the county commissioners, as permitted by statute, employ a highway supervisor (q. v.), (ibid.). For private parties, he takes acknowledgements of mortgages and deeds for the convenyance of real estate (Acts 1857; Burns' ibid., 49-3317),

and, upon request, runs boundary lines of farms and lots. (1 Ind. Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1875; Burns' ibid., 36-1110, 36-1111.)

Surveys and Reports

292. COUNTY SURVEYOR'S LEDGER, 1886-99. 1 vol.
Record of accounts, showing name of persons or company benefitted, amount charged for surveyor's service, and amount paid on account. Indexed alph. by name of accounts. Hdw. 320 pp. 14 x 11 x 2. Recorder's vt.

293. (RECORD BOOK OF SURVEYS IN BENTON COUNTY), 1850-73. 1 vol.
Original land surveys, showing twp., range and section nos., corners established, name of owners, description and plats of land surveyed, and established lots. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. Condition fair. 350 pp. 13 x 9 x 2. Recorder's vt.

294. INDEX TO VOL. 2, RECORD OF LAND SURVEYS OF BENTON CO,, not dated. 1 vol.
Index to record of land surveys, showing name of person owning land, page, section, twps., and range nos. Arr. numerically by range no. Hdw. Condition fair. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1. Recorder's vt.

Construction Plans and Specifications

295. BRIDGE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, 1923-26. 1 file box.
Plans and specifications for construction of bridges, showing name of bridge, twp., and county, and estimated cost. Arr. alph. by name of bridge. 9 x 4 x 13. Auditor's vt.

Construction Plans and Specifications(continued)

296. DITCH RECORD, 1905-07. 1 vol.
Transcript of allotment from surveyor's record for cleaning ditches, showing name of twps., land benefitted, land owners name, name of ditch, and surveyor's signature. Indexed alph. by name of ditch. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Recorder's vt.

Maps

297. BENTON COUNTY, not dated. 150 blueprints.
Communications maps, showing bridges,road construction, road repairs, buildings, ditches, and ditch repairs. Blueprint. Scale not given. 36 x 24. Basement "bum" rm.

298. GRAVEL ROADS AND BRIDGES, 1922-34. 150 blueprints.
Communications maps of gravel roads and bridges. Drawn by surveyor. Blueprints and charts. Scale not given. 36 x 31. Hall, auditor's off.

299. GRAVEL ROADS,DITCHES , not dated. 170 maps, 14 drawers.
Communications maps and drawings of gravel roads and ditches. Drawn by surveyor. Blueprint and printed. Scale not given. 44 x 33 x 22 . Auditor's off.

Roads, from pioneer times, were under local supervision. From 1879 to 1913 the county commissioners constituted a board of turnpike directors, serving as supervisors, each in his own district. In 1913 the county highways were placed in charge of a superintendent of highways, who was appointed by the county commissioners for a term of four years. Some records bear his name and title. This office was established in 1913, and abolished March 1, 1933; and the powers and duties given to the surveyor. (Acts 1913, ch. 330, p. 877, 1933; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 36-1113.)

In order to provide for necessary supervision in counties warranting more attention than the surveyor can give, the board of county commissioners has the right to employ, at its option, a highway supervisor (Acts 1933; Burns' ibid., 36-1110). The board of commissioners of Benton county has appointed a separate highway supervisor. The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1933. All of the records of this office are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The highway supervisor oversees the maintenance and repair of all highways, bridges, and culverts of the county, and has authority to fix the limits of loads carried over them. It is his duty to see that the mail routes are kept open. He must attend the annual road school at Purdue University. (Acts 1933; Burns', ibid., 36-1101 to 36-1110.)

No records surveyed for this office.

XXI AGRICULTURAL AGENT

The office of county (agricultural) agent was created by legislative enactment in 1913. The act provides that this office shall come into existence whenever twenty or more residents of a county who are actively interested in agriculture and domestic science, file a petition with the county board of education. The petition is then presented to the county council, which must provide appropriation for a salary and expenses for the maintenance of this office. The board of education then applies to Purdue University for the appointment of a county (agricultural) agent. The appointment is subject to the approval of both county and State boards of education, and is made annually, but reappointments may be made for two-year terms. The State also contributes, through the university, part of this officer's salary from the State educational funds. Both salary and expense accounts must be approved by Purdue University before payment by the county. (Acts 1913, 1923, 1927; Burns' Ind. Stat. Ann. 1933, 28-4911.)

The inception date of this office in Benton County is 1913. All records are located in the courthouse unless otherwise stated.

The duties of the agricultural agent, under the supervision of Purdue University, include cooperation with movements for the advancement of agriculture, farmers' institutes and clubs; giving advice to farmers on practical farm problems; conducting farm demonstrations and boys' and girls' clubs and contests; and aiding the county superintendent of schools in furnishing practical education in agriculture and domestic science (ibid.).

By an act of 1931, the home demonstration agent, who is supplemental to the county agent, was created (Acts 1931; Burns' ibid., 28-5627).

Reports
(See also entry 259)

300. ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT, 1932--. 1 file drawer. 1917-31, destroyed.

Annual report on activities, developments, and accomplishments, in the various branches of farming and agricultural extension. Arr. chron. 12 x 12 x 24. Agent's off.

301. MONTHLY REPORT, 1935--. 2 file drawers. 1917-34, destroyed.

Monthly report on no. of days spent on various branches of agricultural problems, showing no. of homes visited, letters received, miles traveled, no. of days in field and office, no. of days spent on food selection, child development, clothing, handicraft, program making, and activities. Arr. chron. 8 x 8 x 13. Agent's off.

302. REPORT OF LEADERS, 1936--. 1 file drawer.

Report on clothing projects, showing no. of persons influenced in selecting new fashions and new materials, no., cost, and value, and no. of garments selected and made. Arr. chron. 4 x 2 x 2. Agent's off.

303. (ON ACCOUNT OF APPROPRIATION), CLAIMS, 1935--. 1 file drawer.

Transcript of all operating expenses, showing date, nature, and amount of claim. Arr. chron. 12 x 12 x 24. Agent's off.

304. JOURNAL, 1932--. 1 vol.

Record of farm bureau memberships, showing names of members, and date membership fee was paid. Arr. by twps., and thereunder alph. by name of member. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 8 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Agent's off.